

# Science Fiction/San Francisco

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### Art Credits

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# Editorial

**By Jean Martin**

*Editor-in-Chief*

I've been a big fan of **Netflix** since I signed up for its service almost 10 years ago. And I have often extolled its virtues in my past editorials. I was not too upset when they disabled the feature on mobile devices of adding DVDs to one's queue. I figured that searching on an actual computer is easier and faster anyway. I even forgave them for raising their rates. A 33% increase amounted to only \$5 a month in my account. It didn't bother me when they changed their rate structure so that people can opt for different services at different price levels. I actually thought that was a good move so that it would be more affordable and customizable.

But I was flabbergasted when the CEO announced by email that they were going to split the instant streaming and DVD-by-mail services into two companies, and consequently, two web sites. I almost didn't read the email when it arrived because the header said it was an apology. It started out as an apology for the price hike and rate changes. Then, it dropped the bombshell for the change in companies unceremoniously. It was so unexpected and unbelievable that I was in shock and then I was angry.

I also thought it was a stupid idea to name the DVD-by-mail company Qwikster. First of all, when you hear or read it, it doesn't sound like it has anything to do with DVDs and receiving them by mail. Second, it sounds like "trickster," like they're tricking us into swallowing this charade they are adopting. Lastly, I can never remember how to spell it correctly!

Granted, I do use their DVD and Watch Instantly queues for very different reasons. Most of the DVDs I get from Netflix are newer releases or those that I would like to see with better quality on my TV screen. I also use it to "save" movies that haven't come out on DVD yet so I don't forget about them. Movies that I don't get to see in the theaters because I tend not to like going to movies except for group outings and major scifi/fantasy extravaganzas. I also like that Netflix has such a wide variety of DVDs, which include documentaries, British TV, anime and foreign movies. And they are available to be viewed in the comfort of my own home whenever I want. Unlike being at the mercy of the limited selection and availability at old brick-and-mortar DVD rental places like Blockbuster.

However, I also love the Watch Instantly option, which I constantly use through my iPhone. I mostly use this for TV shows with multiple episodes because I can watch them on the go whenever I have 10 minutes or so to spare at lunch time, before going to sleep or while waiting in lines. The downside with Watch Instantly is that the selection of shows is much smaller than their DVD catalog. Especially after their negotiation with Starz fell through and they will no longer have a lot of Starz's more recent movies and TV shows. (On a side note, Starz's *Torchwood: Miracle Day* was excellent, thank goodness!) A while back, I was able to watch online several classic *Doctor Who* episodes and now those are also all gone.

I guess I should have known something was afoot because of the pricing-structure changes and the fact that they've been promoting their streaming service heavily. But I did not see this coming. I guess it's not a big deal that I will be getting two charges on my credit card statement instead of one. But the annoying and inconvenient part is having to go to two web sites to search for a title. I usually look for a title and if it's in Watch Instantly, I put that in my streaming queue, if not, I put it in my DVD queue. Now I have to do a search twice in two places. Also, I'm wondering if they will keep my ratings for more than 2,000 titles. Will this show up in both places? That's how I remember whether I've seen something or not. And how I find recommendations for similar types of movies and TV shows. For instance, I may have seen several episodes of A&E's *Sherlock Holmes* on DVD but that will not show up as being watched in my online watched list. Now I have to check two places to figure out what I haven't seen yet.

One thing that is already frustrating at this point, along this vein, is that they have grouped all the seasons of the same TV series into one header. Not only does this make it hard for me to remember which ones I've already seen, I don't necessarily want to rate the same seasons with the same number of stars. I don't know if this matters to anyone else, but there are some seasons of *Xena* and *Star Trek*, for instance, that I would rate higher than other seasons. If I can see the ratings other people have given to different seasons, it would help me figure out whether I want to watch that particular season or not.

But enough of my complaining. I think we have yet to see the ultimate impact of this change. It could be a visionary move or a monumental blunder. I do agree that streaming is the future, but it's not quite there yet. So I will adopt a wait-and-see approach. I have not totally given up on Netflix yet. In

my humble opinion, those who are sick of them right now and have cancelled their subscriptions seems to me like biting off your nose to spite your face. Changes are inevitable in our fast-paced technological world. Right now, as far as I have researched and tried out, there are no real alternatives to Netflix/Qwikster for the price and convenience. I have just downgraded my cable service to basic because I rarely watch TV anymore. I watch most of my entertainment online or in DVDs. Although the latter less and less. I just hope Qwikster doesn't go away anytime soon and before Netflix ramps up to the point where their offerings are the same. I don't want to lose the vast library of titles that are currently available on DVD but not online.

But I'll also be more than happy if another company pounces on the current backlash against Netflix and provides an even better offering. I don't know what form this would take but we can dream. Currently, I'm just not too thrilled with the existing alternatives. I buy and rent titles from iTunes occasionally but it's a hassle to download and also costs a lot in total if you watch more than just one or two a month. Comcast On Demand is also limited with their paid titles and their free ones are a joke (old ones I've already seen or bad ones I don't ever care to see). Amazon is a hybrid of iTunes and On Demand. The free titles for Amazon Prime members like me are terrible to say the least. And yes, downloading is slow and costs a lot.

I haven't used Redbox yet but I just don't relish the thought of standing at kiosk and getting rattled by having to search and choose something really quickly because there are people waiting to use it. Or worse, having to wait in line because someone taking their time making their choices. I also like having a vast library to choose from and making a queue list. I

don't know how big Redbox's catalog is but it seems to cater to people who want to see the latest blockbuster. And how many DVDs can fit into that tiny kiosk anyway? I also don't know about being able to establish and maintain a queue with them.

As for Hulu and YouTube, well, they're limited for my purposes as well. And the Hulu app for the iPhone is not very good based on reviews so I haven't even bothered. YouTube is mostly good for short, funny videos and the like. Not for watching entire episodes unless you're okay with poor video quality and frequent breaks.

So the only contender I see out there right now is, ironically, Blockbuster. Whom Netflix almost killed a few years back.

Anyway, going back to what I said earlier about not watching very many movies in the theaters, it's because I prefer actually being out there performing or dancing myself. And I also have always loved **live theater**. I haven't gone to the theater much, though, in recent years because I haven't had anyone to go with and there haven't been that many offerings in the Bay Area that I've been interested in.

This year has been, unexpectedly, the complete opposite though. As if to make up for a theater drought in my life recently, 2011 has been a veritable deluge. So far this year, I've seen the 80s Hair Metal-inspired musical *Rock of Ages*, Hugh Jackman's one-man show, *Billy Elliot* (about a boy who wants to become a ballet dancer), the Blue Man Group, Charlie Ross's *One Man Star Wars* Trilogy, Free Shakespeare in the Park's Steampunk *Cymbeline*, and Hillbarn Theatre's L.A. noir musical *City of Angels*. Coming up are Theatreworks' *Sense and Sensibility* and *Secret Garden*, Lyric Theater's *HMS Pinafore* (with my friend Cordelia Willis) and

Cirque du Soleil's *Totem*. There are two other ones I'm interested in seeing but I just don't have the time for: Marin Shakespeare Company's Steampunk *Tempest* (everything's Steampunk nowadays!) and San Jose Repertory Theatre's *Spring Awakening*.

What I've also been having a great time watching lately are the skits and musical numbers from the *Horrible Histories* live-action TV series from the BBC. There are a lot of them on YouTube. As I mentioned earlier, YouTube is great for things like these. *Horrible Histories* started out as a series of books and then an animated show. I'm not familiar with these but the live-action ones are hilarious, original, hip, entertaining, and yes, educational. Most of the ones about British history are, unsurprisingly (because that's where these are made), excellent. The ones about other nations and cultures have not been as good, I think. My favorite ones are George IV singing about his frustration toward his mad father and arranged marriage (based on Westlife), Boudicca's song and dance number about fighting the Romans (based on the Ting Tings), Blackbeard and his pirates singing ala Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*, Dick Turpin's eerily similar music video about being a highwayman with Adam Ant's *Stand and Deliver*, and King Charles II rapping a la Eminem about being the Restoration and being the party king.

There were some that to me were clever ideas that did not quite deliver as well on the execution such as William "Braveheart" Wallace imitating Billy Idol's *Rebel Yell*, Vikings copying a Guns 'N' Roses music video and Knights doing a *Spamalot* rendition.

Some of the non-musical skits that I like include the two on Georgian fan language (about courting and "instant messaging"), Antony and Cleopatra on a dating web site,

Helen of Troy causing the Trojan War by virtue of being a total chav, Henry VIII establishing his own church via a web site dedicated for this purpose and two Victorian ones about ordering a floral messaging service and a Victorian maid.

After all this talk about shows on DVDs and online, I think I'm ready to take a break and maybe do something else like photography projects or "reading" audiobooks or maybe both at the same time.

# ELECTRON



Franco  
8/1/11

Editor's Note: My nephew Franco is a budding comic book artist who constantly draws characters and scenes from his imagination. His specialty is drawing on the back of kid's menus and paper placemats at restaurants, using only pens or crayons provided by the restaurant. He drew "Electron" on his ninth birthday at the Il Fornaio in Burlingame.

Electron

by Franco Picache

# Renovation 2011: A Worldcon Report

**By España Sheriff**

*Editor*

Worldcon this year was fantastic but odd. I ridiculously overcommitted myself without quite realizing I was doing so, and as a consequence my experience teetered dizzily between awesomeness and total catastrophe, threatening to collapse into pure misery at any moment but miraculously righting itself just at the last second back into the awesome column, every time.

My commitments looked fine on paper: three panels and two parties, Thursday and Saturday respectively, in honor of Campbell nominee Lev Grossman. However, I also agreed to be part of a Masquerade entry, which ate most of my Friday and I do tend to stay up late plus it turns out there are things to do and see during the daytime at Worldcon! Something had to give, and in this case it was sleep. Well, sleep and some small amount of sanity.

I traveled up to Reno on Amtrak's California Zephyr and met my first fellow congoers along the way, first being a gentleman waiting in the Amtrak Ferry Building, who I had half guessed might be a fan. He turned out to be Andrew Porter, the Hugo award-winning editor of *Algol*, who surprised me by being aware of SF/SF. He said he had used the calendar to visit the SFInSF Tad Williams event in the city the previous evening. Randy Smith, Father John Blaker and a few other folks were also on board making for some nice pre-con geekery.



**Reno Sparks Convention Center**

by Howeird

After a stopover in Truckee to visit with Leigh Ann Hildebrand and Leo Schwab, I arrived at the Peppermill Tuesday night, crashing with Mette Hedin and Bryan Little for the evening. The Peppermill was the hotel for the big events: Masquerade, Hugos, etc., while my hotel, The Atlantis, was the one connected to the Reno-Sparks Convention Center, where the panels and exhibits were held, and also was the official party hotel.

Coming in Tuesday allowed me a reasonably early start on Wednesday to get my badge and hang art before checking into my room. Awkwardly, the convention had chosen, in one of its

few obvious mistakes (as opposed to things going wrong despite their best efforts) to make the official ribbons all vertical. Now, in California fandom at least, horizontal ribbons are pretty much the norm now, and the two types are not really compatible. The result being that all of us who spent money on ribbons either for fun or to promote a group, book, fanzine or other fanac were suddenly stuck with ribbons that anyone in participating in programming, art show, masquerade, etc. might not be able to wear at all. I simply chose not to wear any of my official ribbons (of which I had three by Friday anyway, which fills the badge), but I really do think this was a very odd decision and unnecessarily inconvenient to the membership.

A better decision was the shuttle. The con ran a bus between the two hotels on a constant cycle, which was very helpful. There were plenty of cabs too, five bucks or so for the inter-hotel trip and easy to share with two or three other fans. But the psychological distance was such that I think that ended up being the worst part of the convention, having these two big islands of fandom. I ended up doubly glad to have picked the Atlantis and easy access to panels and parties. Luckily, the people I wanted to see the most from the Peppermill made it over to the Atlantis to run parties or just to visit, so it worked out fine for me personally. The party scene was curious, spread over two floors and waxing and waning from night to night—possibly due in part to hotel issues (which on the one hand were regrettable but on the other hand it was nothing as bad as the Denver situation), but there was something good going every night, 24 hours of casino to boot, so we managed.

The first thing I noticed while running around before checking into my room was the amazing signage. People were tweeting pictures of the Renovation banners hanging at the airport, and the convention center itself also had big banners

with the art of the Artist guest of honor (GOH) Boris Vallejo, plus a giant screen scrolling through the pieces submitted to the artist showcase. Additionally, the Atlantis had signs along the Sky Bridge, which connects it to the Convention Center, designating it as the “Official Renovation Party Hotel,” something I have never seen before. Along the lobby and elevators there were also signs with the shuttle schedule, and



Atlantis Party Hotel Sign

by Christopher Erickson

little cards for the drinks specials both done up to fit the convention aesthetic.

The two hotels were an interesting contrast. Where the Peppermill had gone Full Vegas, with hilariously clashing décor layered on top of a basic Caesar's Palace Lite foundation, the Atlantis was relatively classy (for values of that word that apply in a casino). I greatly enjoyed wandering the Peppermill the first day, seeing what I now think of as the Liberace Memorial Sushi Buffet, the creepy faux-Roman paintings lining the room hallways, the awesome 80s planets-n-rainbows carpet that was sadly being torn up, and the admittedly pretty cool central bar outside the Tuscany ballrooms. Mette and Bryan taught me how to play Pai Gow poker, and I only lost \$20 (well, \$40, if you consider I still have the chips I never cashed out). The whole place had an appropriately hallucinatory vibe with which to start the convention.

The Atlantis, meanwhile was still certainly a casino but hadn't quite committed to layering every flat surface with monitors and flashing lights, and was therefore a relative oasis of calm. The staff was uniformly friendly and helpful, in my experience. Although I saw some complaints about not having a central "con bar," I can only imagine that was from Peppermill folks since the Atlantis had a bar right beside the hotel desk that was our primary starting and meetup point, plus the Sports Bar, which was also conveniently located and had the comfiest chairs I have ever had the extreme pleasure of sitting in. I would have smuggled one home in my luggage if there had been any way to make that happen.

I made it to Opening Ceremonies, very much enjoying Boris Vallejo and his refreshingly pragmatic views, then once Jason Schachat and Anthony and Deb arrived on their

respective flights, we grabbed a group meal at the Bistro, along with Leigh Ann, Leo and Sean Healy. The chef was very friendly and the food excellent, ending with a surprise plate of cotton candy, which was just unbelievably good.

The rest of Wednesday was pretty relaxed, by which I mean we looked at the drink menu and thought "five drinks... that sounds like a recipe for a drinking game!" Not feeling particularly creative, I decided on "Five in an Hour" as the Official Renovation Drink Challenge™ and tweeted accordingly. Five out of seven of us "won" handily, despite two of the drinks being frankly terrible. As we wrapped up, Chris Garcia and John Coxon dropped by, presumably having seen our ravings on the twittersphere, and we shared the esoteric secrets of the menu (Don't Drink The Matrix, Soylent Green is Nom).

Done with that, we headed upstairs to check out the parties, which were pretty decent for the first night of the convention. But eventually Jason and I retired to the bar and watched some poor band try to entertain gamblers too addled to make even the pretense of clapping. I overcompensated until I felt complicit in the whole humiliating mess and decided to call it a night.

When I woke up Thursday morning it was much earlier than strictly necessary, and after laying there for an hour, it became clear that I wasn't going back to sleep. I saw a tweet from Leigh Ann saying she was awake as well, so we met up for breakfast at the Purple Parrot. Now, before I go on, please indulge me a brief expositional interlude: Three years ago at Denvention, I had the oddest experience in which every time I sat down for a meal I seemed to end up at the table next to George R.R. Martin. After the third or fourth time, I swear I would catch him glancing over with a glint of panic in his eyes



Masquerade Group with Mette, Bryan, España, Jean, Christopher, Elena and Ant

by Danny Low

as his stalker-radar went off (keep in mind this was during the “Where the Fuck is Book Five” era). I wasn’t even staying at the same hotel as he was, but it kept happening! So, of course at my first breakfast of the con proper, we were guided to our booth and George R.R. Martin was one booth over, half a dozen feet away, glancing sidelong as I approached and was probably wondering what the process for getting a restraining order in Nevada was. It was an awkward meal, but the pancakes were top-notch.

Afterwards, we rushed over to the Preliminary Business Meeting, which was at the rather cruel hour of 10:00 a.m. It was interesting but long and I didn’t make it to any of the subsequent ones. But I will do my best to participate more frequently in the future, and I encourage all Worldcon members to do their best to attend one of these now and again. The business of Worldcon is the business of fandom after all. Among the topics discussed were proposed changes to the Hugo Award categories, which I think most fen might have an

interest in. I was also glad to see efforts seem to have been made to encourage participation and easier access.

When that ended, I headed to the BOF for Fillory (one of the settings in Lev Grossman's *Magician* novels) Fandom, at which I finally had the pleasure of meeting Lloyd and Yvonne Penney. The original plan had been to do a Fillory Tea so I had found a late 1940s salmon dress to wear and when the tea was scrapped I couldn't resist getting it anyway, vintage being a fun way to do some comfortable hall costuming. The Penneys were wearing great steampunk ensembles and it was a treat to finally talk in person, and even more so to get a chance to chat with them about the book.

My only panel of the day was a workshop, but it was scheduled against the Magical University Challenge—a quiz show played with teams representing Hogwarts, Brakebills, Unseen University and Miskatonic. I dearly wanted to attend but dutifully went to my thing, which started off slow but ended up with some decent hands-on fun. I rushed from the panel to catch the tail end of the Challenge, in which Miskatonic took the gold handily. Sadly, I missed Brakebills failing big and then attempting to kidnap Harry Potter from the Hogwarts team, but I did get the chance to meet up with a bunch of friends I hadn't seen yet, which almost made up for missing the fun.

I distributed the posters and did the relatively minimal decorating and setup for that evening's party, themed for the Magic Safe Houses described in *The Magician King*, the second of the *Magician* novels. Then I changed into my "goth reject" canonical cosplay and it was time to party. We opened at 8:30 p.m., much earlier than usual, so it started slow, but within an hour the room was pretty much constantly full and by 2:00 a.m., we ran out of the last drop of booze, which all in

all I would call a success. Viking Press had sent along some temporary tattoos: small blue seven-pointed stars and larger ones with "50" in the center, meant to represent your magical level in the Safe House. We decided that the 50-stars would be earned by doing shots of the worst liquor we could think of: Frenet Blanc. However, we forgot to actually buy any, so we started with some disgusting orange liquor for star one, then two shots of something else for star 2, then sadly the good stuff was all gone and for our third star we had to make do with shot glasses filled with cider. Not wanting to give up so easily, we headed down to the lobby bar and asked the bartender for four shots of whatever the worst thing he could think of was. Without missing a beat he poured us some Campari. We earned those last ones, I tell you.

Friday morning, I again woke up unreasonably early. I left the roommates sleeping and headed over to the convention center, stopping at the invitingly enormous consuite for the first time. The enormous consuite, which was completely out of coffee. Disbelief made me positively faint until I remembered I was also entitled to visit the Green Room. I popped over there, hoping no one would chide me for not wearing my vertical program participant ribbon, and grabbed some much needed caffeine and a scone, then I figured this was as good a time as any to sneak in a panel. Not having my pocket guide handy and being unable to load the app, I simply wandered Hall A looking at the posted schedules, eventually landing at "Comics of 2010-2011 That Rocked," which was very good for the first half but then sort of wandered into a general discussion of comics, at which point I snuck back out, content with the half-page of recommendations I already had.

From this point on, Masquerade prep ate my Friday. I shuttled over to the Peppermill for the tech rehearsal, which

ran late, then went back to the Atlantis where I ate lunch and dithered over whether to catch the first part of the Mary Robinette Kowal puppet show, eventually deciding there was no time, since I had to be back at the Peppermill at 5:30 p.m. to get in costume for workmanship judging, official photography and so on. As a warm body in one of Mette's costumes, my nerves were limited to stage fright, and strangely I found that had all but vanished since WonderCon. Having been able to rehearse on the actual stage (something we never got to at Wondercon) eliminated my fears of not knowing the terrain, and I ended up pretty chill. Knowing the quality of the costumes, I also felt confident on Bryan and Mette's behalf. So we all watched the show on the monitors provided backstage and next thing I knew it was our turn. I sent up a little prayer that I wouldn't trip over something and ruin the whole bit and we headed up the ramp.

Practice served us well, and we got through intact, hitting our marks with nary a stumble. I came off stage confident that whether or not we had been any good, which is subjective, we had certainly done our best, which was all we could really ask for. Another round of photos and then it was all over but the waiting. We could hear Paul Cornell hosting Just a Minute during halftime, and I had some pleasant Gallifrey One flashbacks, and then they started to announce names. To my admittedly inexperienced eyes, the overall quality of the entrants



**New Fan Editors Panel**

by Gary Mattingly

was top-notch, with some of my favorites being the Blue Meanie (made from clown wigs!), Princess Penny Arcade and the Night at the Sci-Fi Museum.

Our group won in two categories: Best in Show Workmanship and Best in Class-Master Presentation, both of which I can comfortably say were entirely deserved, since as mentioned, my involvement was limited solely in the wearing of the thing. Or the carrying, in the case of Lady Cassandra. We got on stage, accepted the awards and then it was time for carousing!

Tempting as it was to stay for Music Night at the Peppermill, costumes involve a whole lot of sweating, unfortunately, so I retreated to the Atlantis to shower and change. The parties were fewer and smaller than I had

expected for a Friday, doubtless due to the events drawing people over to the Peppermill. While not actually that vast, the distance seemed far enough not to want to bother going back so I ended up visiting with the cleverly decorated and just generally excellent London 2014 bid party for an hour or so before kidnapping TAFF delegate John Coxon down to the bar for some more Soylent Greens, and by the time we headed back up to the party floor, it was pretty much shuttered.

Saturday morning, you guessed it, I woke up too early again. I went down to The Purple Parrot for breakfast before heading over to the first of my two panels for the day. This one was listed as a “workshop” and therefore held at the Fan Lounge instead of a room, which probably contributed to it being attended almost entirely by established fanzine fans despite being titled “Are there New Fan Editors and Fan Writers” (apparently not). Our own Jean Martin was the moderator, and pro that she is, had an agenda and moderated the fuck out of the thing despite the best efforts of John and myself, seated on each side of her, to get into fights with our audience/co-panelists. All in all it was a fun opportunity for me to engage with a bunch of fanzine fans that I’ve barely had

a chance to meet previously. I was sad to see I was down to my last two Hardcore Fandom ribbons, but I gave those to Mark Plummer and Claire Brialey who thoroughly deserve them, so that worked out nicely.

I hit the art show to squint at my art on display and was delighted to see I had several bids, making up for the fact that I finished no new art for the convention. While there, I ran into Mo Starkey, who informed me that as a participating artist I was entitled to a copy of the Artist Showcase book. I gladly picked one up from Elaine Pelz and had time for a quick look through the rest of the art show (top notch) and the Art Collection, which had some amazing classic SF artists including two of my favorites, Ed Emshwiller and Richard Powers.

Then it was time for my 2:00 p.m. panel, in which I was seated with four other faneds any one of whom knows a thousand times more than I do about the world of fanzines past or present. Garcia moderated, throwing us each some questions, which I mostly flailed at. However, I did take the opportunity to mention how much Mette Hedin deserves your



Fanzine panel

by Gary Mattingly



**JohnO, España, Lev Grossman and Leigh Ann Celebrating at Two Moons Party**

by Jean Martin

Hugo nominations for best fan writer next year for her work over on Yipe!

Saturday was Hugo night and our second party, themed for the Two Moons Inn featured in *The Magicians*, and which would hopefully serve as a celebration of Grossman's Campbell win. I was also looking forward to seeing the post-ceremony screening of *Radio Free Albemuth*. Unfortunately, the decorating ended up taking a whole lot longer than planned despite the help of various folks like Bill Howard (who is tall!). Eventually it became obvious that in order to get it done right, Jason and I would have to power through and

skip the awards entirely. Even had the evening turned out differently, this would have made me very sad, the Hugos are by far the big event of the convention for me, a vital part of the continuing history of fandom regardless of whether one's particular choices win or lose. But there was nothing to be done about it, so at 8:30 p.m. when I finally got back to my room, I had my phone in my hand watching the #hugos twitter hashtag. I had barely walked in the room when Lev Grossman was announced as the 2011 Campbell winner for Best New Writer! I cheered, my roommates cheered and I felt a little better.

As we got changed, I saw the win for Claire Brialey come through, and then *The Drink Tank*, I reminded myself again not to feel bad for missing the number one best Hugo evening EVER in which my friends and people I admire ran away with the lot. Or not too bad, damn it. I changed into my Watcherwoman outfit, while Jason became The Beast, both characters from the book, and we headed down to the Two Moons in time to get some last minute touches done and open the doors. Although a lot of folks were still at the Peppermill, the room filled up quickly. After a while, Grossman entered the room to resounding cheers, wearing the Campbell tiara and looking appropriately chuffed with the course of his evening so far. Viking also sent amazing cupcakes for the party, so we distributed those and let the party roar.

At some point, the party started winding down, and to no one's shock, Jason, John and I ended up getting a nightcap down at some casino bar or other where the waitress didn't know how to mix the Soylent Green and compensated by making it in a pint glass, bless her heart. We overtipped and when dawn rolled around we saw the TAFF delegate safely back to his hotel as the sun came up, trying and mostly failing to explain MST3K along the way, despite the fact that it really didn't need explaining.

Sunday started in the usual fashion, despite my having nothing at all to do other than pick up my art before tear down. I lay in bed for an hour or two in a bit of a panic, wondering whether I had simply broken my sleep mechanism for good. The answer appeared to be yes, so I got up and headed over to the art show. I had sold five pieces, which was pleasant, and I ran into Warren Buff along the way, which was nice since I hadn't managed to chat with him much either at Westercon or here.

We both headed over to attend one last panel of the con, which was "The Fisher King in Myth." It was a subject I was interested in anyway, but just as importantly, allowed me after five days of near misses to finally say hello to the GOH of Renovation, the one and only Tim Powers, who is after all SoCal fandom with NorCal ties and therefore One of Us. Afterwards, pretty much everyone was running off to closing ceremonies but I decided on one last ditch attempt at sleep before I succumbed to nervous exhaustion. It took a while, but eventually I remembered I had earplugs, used my wild-eyed manic demeanor to scare the roommates into terrified silence and managed a few blissful hours, awaking around 9:00 p.m., refreshed and more importantly with a renewed belief in my ability to sleep again.

I joined folks finishing up their meal at the Manhattan Deli and then headed up to Leigh Ann's going away party before making some last rounds hoping to catch up with all the people I hadn't had a chance to see during the con, or had only seen briefly. I visited the Fanzine Lounge PM but missed Garcia who, naturally, had already gone to sleep. I accidentally ended up crashing the Former Worldcon Chairs' party not realizing what it was. I left when I realized, but not before shaking the hand of Russ Hodgkins who helped run the second ever Worldcon, Chicon I, back in 1940 and who I look forward to meeting again at Chicon 7 next year. There was more drinking and chatting and a brief detour when I remembered I hadn't packed yet, and finally around 3:00 a.m. we ended up at the Purple Parrot one last time. I had the Southern Fried Steak and a side of biscuits and gravy and thanked the ghods for the Atlantis-RSCC Sky Bridge exercise plan, which was the only thing that kept me from putting on 50 pounds over the weekend.

Two hours of sleep and then I was off to catch my 8:30 a.m. train home. As it turned out, I could have slept another two hours since flooding in Colorado delayed the train. But once aboard, I slept most of the way home, so that was fine. Arriving in Emeryville, the inimitable Joe Price picked me up and whisked us over to BASFA in order to suck the marrow of the extended Worldcon experience, since Chris Garcia and James Bacon would be attending with their Hugo, as would John Coxon, who was staying at Garcia's place for the end of his trip.

I introduced Mr. Price and the Junior TAFF Delegate from Gnomeville and informed him that the poor soul had no plans whatsoever for his final days in the Bay Area. So we hatched a plan to hang out the next day. Which we did, starting with "brunch" at Rogue up in North Beach, a quick detour to Corona Heights (made famous in Fritz Leiber's *Our Lady of Darkness*) and then over to Alameda for the Tiki wonderland that is Forbidden Island. The Lovely and Talented Linda Wenzelburger joined us for a while and we drank many sugary drinks before dropping John back off at the Den of Garcia, feeling as though the true Flower of American Culture had been properly presented at last.



Mike Glyer in Fanzine area

by Gary Mattingly

# An Englishman at an American Worldcon

**By John Coxon**

*2011 TAFF Delegate*

My experiences at the 2011 Worldcon have all somewhat blended together into a haze of emotions, abstract concepts and characteristics of the convention, including good company, fun, excitement, trepidation, alcohol, intelligent discussion, walking around a lot, sleeping (but not much), awesome food and more good company. I think I underestimated just how little free time there would be in Reno between panels, events, parties, meals and just meeting awesome people. I was fully intending to write copious notes as I went through, but that was almost entirely replaced with a desire to meet more people and do more stuff!

It's worth noting, at this stage in the con report, that when I talk about differences that I perceived between British and American conventions, what I'm actually talking about are differences between Renovation (the only American event I've attended to date) and those conventions that I have attended in Britain. However, since my first was the 2007 Eastercon, Contemplation, in Chester, I've only actually attended ten: five Eastercons, one Novacon, two Unicons, one Year of the Teledu and one James 'n' Stef con. As such, I do talk from the perspective of an inexperienced congoer, which means that what I see as differences may be bred from the fact that I'm a massive n00b, rather than being valid commentary (to be fair, a lot of my fan writing is improved if you bear that in mind).

What follows has been painstakingly reconstructed. I'm sitting in my parents' kitchen in England. I have beside me a



John Coxon at a Typical American Con

by Jason Schachat

mug of coffee (from grounds, not instant – sometimes you can't settle for anything less than the proper stuff) and a copy of the Renovation Convention Guide. There's also a tiny spider wandering around watching my giant fingers bash on the keys of my MacBook, but that's perhaps somewhat less relevant. This isn't a full account of everything I did in Reno at Worldcon, for various reasons (some more obvious than others!) but it's an attempt to capture some of the awesome atmosphere and the amazing time that I had there. If I've missed you out from this account, I sincerely apologise – any one of a number of my friends will gladly testify to how terrible my memory is and my memory for names suffers, especially when I'm sleep-deprived and/or drunk. Contact me, and I can try to address any omissions! But, regardless, I hope you enjoy it.

I arrived in Reno with one Christopher J. Garcia on the Wednesday, after we had set out from Tahoe that morning. He needed to be there to help set up the Fanzine Lounge and I had a panel at 4pm, so we both figured being there in good time was an excellent idea. This being my first Worldcon, my first event of any kind in a conference centre, my first American convention and my first foreign convention, I knew, going into the con, that I would be able to count the number of people I already knew on my fingers (obviously excepting the people I had met on my TAFF trip, a fair number of whom made it to Renovation).

This feeling was rather compounded by the fact that Chris knows everyone. Or, more accurately, everyone knows Chris. It's hard to miss the kind of guy who has the hair, beard and T-shirt collection that Chris is famous for, and so as we walked through the convention centre everyone was saying hi and stopping to talk to us, and I knew nobody at all. What this did

mean, however, was I very quickly met about five hundred people (this may be a lie) before joining the queue for registration, which was moving at a fair pace. I was holding a place for Chris, who had arrived in the queue and then left to use the restroom, and so I was minding my own business when I heard the chap in front of me complaining about the queue in great detail. "What about Japan?", he exclaimed. "Does nobody remember Japan?!" As an Englishman, I felt obliged to say absolutely nothing and just queue quietly and without fuss. This was by far the best way of dealing with things, especially since I do own an iPhone and it has games and Twitter on it.

Eventually Chris came back and we made it to the registration desks and I picked up my con badge. Apparently, none of my personal details were in the Renovation database, so I gladly informed the volunteer on the desk of my address. Upon being asked what city I lived in, I said, "Peterborough," at which point the volunteer looked at me and enquired as to where that was. "Um, England," was my reply, which he carefully considered before politely enquiring whether that meant Peterborough wasn't in a State. I gladly informed him that no, Peterborough is indeed not in a State (unless you count what the council are currently doing to it, but I was guessing his knowledge of local politics in England was limited).

Having successfully gotten my badge, I went to grab my programme details from Mary Kay Kare before heading into the Fanzine Lounge with Chris to see what was happening there. Since Chris is one of my best friends in fandom, I anticipated I would be spending a lot of my downtime just chilling out over there, and so I was interested to see what it was like! There were sofas and armchairs and tables and more

chairs and two computers and a printer and a lot of fanzines, all of which made both of us happy. The other thing that made us happy was the Tiki Dalek opposite the Fanzine Lounge, which turned out to be the best way to indicate its location to other people. “So, uh, where’s the Fanzine Lounge?” “Well, you know the room with the dealers in it? Just walk in there, look for the Tiki Dalek and we’re right opposite.”

The Fanzine Lounge marked the first culture difference between British and American conventions, I think – certainly, I’ve not been to anything quite like the fanzine lounge at a British con, but then I’m a relatively new congoer so I’m hesitant to make any definitive comments. If it wasn’t the first culture difference, the ribbons definitely were. I’ve never been to a convention with ribbons before, so this was my first time! Chris gave me some ribbons at this point – his ribbon was grammatically incorrect and was thus edited by Claire Brialey, who was also there with Mark Plummer. He also gave me two TAFF ribbons, which occupied pride of place at the very top of my badge! I believe Kat Templeton, Lloyd and Yvonne Penney and a variety of other people were also present – it’s also possible that I met Craig Glassner at this point, alongside Walt Willis, since I remember I met them in the Fanzine Lounge at some point and don’t really remember what day that might have been.

I definitely remember that this was when I met the brilliant and sophisticated Steven H. Silver, to whom there was a fair chance I would present a Hugo on the Saturday night; I remember this because the Chicon 7 ribbon is the second ribbon on my badge. Fortunately, he turned out to be a rather nice chap and we spent some time chatting, in which I managed to bewilder and annoy him by insisting that he was pronouncing Chicon 7 wrongly (something I continued to

pronounce in a variety of different ways, each of them unique, for the rest of the convention).

I also believe it was between this and the Opening Ceremony that I met a group of people including España Sheriff and Leigh Ann Hildebrand. I cannot for the life of me remember who else was in that group of people, but I’m completely sure that that’s when it happened, since I’m looking at the stream of ribbons that were on my badge and I got ribbons from España and Leigh Ann before the ribbons I collected at the Opening Ceremony. Trust in the ribbons, is what I’m saying! I also happen to know that, at this point, I went to the London in 2014 table to volunteer for service, since I have a London in 2014 ribbon immediately after Leigh Ann’s! Additionally, I remember this being the point at which someone claimed I could pass for Mexican if I tried; my response was incredulity, which made Claire giggle.

Eventually, it was time to stop looking through fanzines and greeting people that were coming along, and the Opening Ceremony occurred. I believe it was here that I had my first exposure to Norman Cates, who was holding a massive camera (see, I said ‘exposure’ because he had a camera. Get it?) and was great to very quietly have a laugh with whilst people were being introduced on stage. I make a point of being at the open and close of every convention I attend, for reasons I’ve never worked out – I guess I’m a completist and it’s my way of collecting the convention? Or maybe I’m just boring and predictable, who knows? But, it was worth going either way, because Dr Demento was there (hurrah!) and also because I got two new ribbons from Norman.

After the Opening Ceremony, I went to the Green Room, and what ensued was my second big culture shock of Worldcon. I went up to the desk, and said, “uh, I’m me, and

I'm here for the panel on The Real Revenge of the Nerds: Geek as Hero?" I got two blank stares. It rapidly became clear that the British idea of what a Green Room is and what it does is vastly different to the American idea. The American idea is that the Green Room is a cafeteria where people who are on the programme can go and grab a bite to eat whenever they'd like to do that, but there's no more organisation to it than that. There's coffee, and a selection of drinks, but it's basically up to you to find your group and/or get to where your panel's at in time to be on it.

In Britain, this is vastly different, in my experience. I don't think I've ever really been to a Green Room where there was food for programme participants, although we oftentimes do have coffee facilities (and tea, being British and all that). What we do have, however, is someone at the Green Room who is ticking names off a list of the programme participants who are supposed to be in the Green Room, and telling them whether the rest of their panel has checked in yet, and if they have where they might be (whether it's in the room, discussing the panel, or whether they've already gone to the programme room because you're running late). If you've never met them, someone will probably introduce you, if you look nervous, and the staff in the Green Room will generally look after you pretty well.

It's made very clear to everyone that being early before a panel is necessary, and most people actually do follow that recommendation, which means discussion of what might be said or discussed on the panel becomes possible. I was finding, at Reno, that most of the time I was turning up to panels and just reacting to whatever it was the moderator or the other panellists wanted to discuss; in the UK, that tends to be something you've already gone over in the Green Room

immediately before the panel (although, to be fair, I did have email conversations with a couple of people about panels before arriving in Reno at all). On the other hand, cultural difference #3 (which is coming up) did mean that I was really glad about the food in the Green Room being available freely, and I do think the American model works really well – it just works in a way that is almost completely different from what I'm used to, as a Brit.

But anyway, it's time to tell you about the first panel I was on. As I previously mentioned, it was entitled "Revenge of the Nerds: Geek as Hero", and we had a jolly old time. When I say we, I'm talking about Ginjer Buchanan, Laurie Mann, Kristine Kathryn Rusch and Connie Willis; needless to say, with a panel like that, the room was both significantly larger and significantly fuller than I had been expecting. It was also rather nice to be the token man on the panel, something that was pointed out by the moderator before we started. Unfortunately, I can't for the life of me remember who the moderator was. My copy of the programme says that Ginjer was due to moderate, but I'm almost positive that Laurie did it instead. Anyway, we had an awesome time; this was the point in the convention at which I learned the true extent of Connie's love for Primeval (she really, really likes that show!) and I caused a ripple to go through the audience by comparing Buffy to Glee and then hiding under the table.

After panelling it up and thanking the other panellists for being such a pleasure to talk with, I finally managed to intersect with the elusive and hard-to-find Christopher J. Garcia by going to a panel that he was on entitled "Fandom Online: Is the Argument Over? What Was (Is?) the Argument About?" Unfortunately, Claire Brialey wasn't able to be on the panel, but Chris moderated John Scalzi and Teresa Nielsen

Hayden excellently, so her loss was missed slightly less than it otherwise would have been. I saw a number of people I knew in the audience (David Cake, Colin Hinz and The Lovely and Talented Linda Wenzelburger), and about ten minutes into the panel I also learned that the chap I was sitting next to was Cory Doctorow, which prompted an excited tweet out of me immediately. I then saw him looking at it on his phone, which made me even more shy!

After the panel, I got to meet Teresa, which was cool since I've heard a lot about her but never actually had the pleasure. (I would love to meet John Scalzi at some stage, too, but that didn't happen at Reno, much to my chagrin.) We chatted a little, and someone came up to me and asked me for my opinions on iOS apps – I seem to remember giving him one of the Moo cards I took on the trip, but I never heard anything from him, so no idea whether anything ever came of that! Eventually I rendezvoused with Chris and Linda and persuaded him to take me to the Peppermill so that we could check into our room. On the way to the room, I met Sydnie Krause, who was wearing the TAFF scarf that Leigh Ann made for a TAFF auction at one point. It was the first time I'd seen the scarf, so obviously it was necessary to spend time talking to Sydnie, too – fortunately, she's lovely, so that worked well.

A lot of people said that the Atlantis was more tasteful than the Peppermill, during the week (amongst them is España, who says so in her con report in this issue of *SF/SF*, assuming I get this in by the deadline!). If, by 'more tasteful' you mean 'LESS AWESOME' then I wholeheartedly agree. I liked the crazy anachronistic Roman paintings and the fact that getting from the hotel checkin desk to one of the eateries actually made me seriously consider leaving a trail of sweets so I could



Four Fantastic TAFF Delegates

by James Shields

retrace my steps. They also had my favourite soap, which always meant I was going to talk about it in glowing terms afterwards. To be honest, though, I found the Peppermill okay. I know that a couple of fans with allergies had real problems, but fortunately I am lucky enough that that didn't affect me. I found getting to and from the hotel was just fine – it was only a short walk to and from the hotel and I kinda liked ending every day walking back from the Atlantis in the cool desert air. But I'm very aware that other people had reasons for not being so keen on the walking-for-half-an-hour-whilst-the-sunrise-was-occurring-in-the-background thing!

I went out for dinner with Chris and Linda, and afterwards we hit the Atlantis because we wanted to party. This was the second time I met Leigh Ann and España, and I also met Deb Kopec, Ant Kopec and Jason Schachat at this stage (I met Bryan Little and Mette Hedin later in the evening, amongst the parties, but I cannot remember a precise time so I'm mentioning it here!). I hit plenty of parties, none of which I can remember to my total satisfaction – there was the Christmas Worldcon 2020 party, and the NASFiC 2010 party which was using up some of the money they'd had left over, and some other parties, and some alcohol, and some parties. I bumped into Warren Buff and Sydnie Krause at the NASFiC party and chatted with them, which was cool. The Christmas party saw me get an awesome ribbon for

telling someone a beer-related anecdote, but I didn't get her name and I didn't see her again, so if you're reading this, thanks for the great ribbon!

I met a group of four fantastic women in the Christmas party, who go by the names of Alaina Evans, Jenn Johansson, Natalie Sage and Nichole Giles – they were awesome to talk to and whenever I bumped into them over the weekend it was good times! Spike gave me a FWA membership ribbon, too; despite the fact that, um, I'm not a member of the FWA (apparently that's really a technical point). Jesi Lipp and Meg



**Mette Hedin and John Coxon**  
**Mette is costumed as Vyvyan from The Young Ones**

by Jason Schachat

Totusek were floating around, and I'm fairly sure I met both of them at this stage, although I spent more time with them and actually got to know them later in the convention, which was great.

Eventually I headed back to the NASFiC party, via the hotel lobby – I was going to go back to my hotel and actually catch some winks, but on my way out of the elevator I bumped into España and Jason. España promptly gave me her drink on the news that I was considering going to bed, and they dragged me up to the NASFiC party, which, by this time, had split into a public party of lameness and a somewhat more exclusive party of total awesomeness and hot tubs. Sydnie introduced me to a gaggle of people she knew. They were Ben Gould, Amos Meeks, Tristan Rying, Jordan Sears-Zeve, Jamie Tinney and Sara Weinstein. All of them were really fun people I ended up having a great night with, after talking with Warren (who was in the hot tub, which was awesome) and España and Jason (who weren't, but were still awesome).

Thursday happened (this tends to happen after Wednesdays) and brought with it a panel at noon, which was entitled "Where to Start with Comics". As such I got up in the morning (yes, really) and promptly didn't have breakfast. This is culture shock #3 – at every convention I've previously stayed in a hotel at, there's been one breakfast, that was provided as part of the price of the room. As a result, having to pay attention to the cost of breakfast was a bit of a weird thing anyway, but the fact that there were approximately ten places to get food in the hotel didn't help – I'm used to just turning up on my own at the place where breakfast is at, and sitting with the first table of people I'm friendly with who wave me over. That didn't happen (not even slightly) at Worldcon! But it all worked out for the best eventually, so that was fine.

I've done enough panels about introductions to comics at British cons that I didn't really pay much attention to the noon panel on my programme, beyond noting that it was with James Bacon (who I know already), Tanglwyst de Holloway, who I had not heard of but who is very cool, and Lauren Beukes, Campbell nominee and Clarke winner. What I didn't notice, therefore, is that it was on the kids' program. I intended to talk about how I got started with comics, but what actually happened is we sat and listened, enthralled, as a group of four kids talked to us about a whole host of stuff. Mostly comics, it must be said, but there was also discussion of gender politics and dragons, which was really encouraging (because gender is important and dragons are dragony, respectively).

Afterwards, Lauren asked where was good for lunch and I said I was going to grab something in the Green Room since I hadn't had breakfast; she agreed this was a fine idea and so we ended up grabbing a bagel and chatting for a bit. I was slightly starstruck by the fact that Alastair Reynolds and Ian McDonald were at the same table as us for a bit before zipping off to programme, and so I was fairly quiet and boring company (my reaction to being starstruck is to shut my mouth and fade into the background, since audible squeeing must be so annoying), but ah well.

At some point on this day, Kat Templeton decided that, just for me, she would replace her policy of giving shiny things to TAFF delegates at American conventions with a policy of giving Mountain Dew to TAFF delegates at American conventions. This went down well with this particular TAFF delegate, since, if you know me at all, you know that I adore Mountain Dew when I'm in the States. Although, I must confess, I'm not sure if I'd adore it quite as much if it wasn't a treat I could only get overseas (yes, we do have a drink called

Mountain Dew: Energy in the UK now, but it's not the same and it has a somewhat odd aftertaste that you don't get in the USA).

As well as being the first time I did a panel in kids' programming, ever, Thursday also marked the first day that I'd ever been on the table for a London Worldcon bid. I'm glad to support the bid for London in 2014, since London in 2014 is going to be the best convention ever in every conceivable way (yes, I am biased; no, I'm not ashamed about it), and so I spent a couple of hours peacefully manning the table with Mike Scott, of Plokta and running-a-London-Worldcon fame. We were able to field questions, and show genuine enthusiasm for the bid, and several people came up to pre-support or become Friends of the bid (so many, in fact, that by the end of the convention only Friends who paid at Reno were allowed ribbons since we were running real low!).

I got off the table on Thursday at about 4pm and promptly went to a panel about "SF Canon Within Comics" with Jordan, who wanted to go. It was pretty interesting, but I felt more like it was a panel of generic SF comic recommendations than a discussion about anything deeper. Having said that, when I looked at the description of the panel that was exactly what it was supposed to be, so kudos to the panel for paying more attention than I did!

I was going to go to parties and stuff on the Thursday evening, and I did definitely attend the London in 2014 party, but what really ended up happening was that I flaked out somewhat and just wound up talking to Sara a lot before going to bed fairly early that night. In so doing I missed España and Leigh Ann's party, which I heard was pretty awesome, but hey, you always have regrets after any convention when you're

hearing the stories of what people got up to in places you didn't visit at the right times, right?

Friday rolled around, bringing with it breakfast at the Peppermill; specifically, in Cafe Milano. I was joined by Sara, since she had masquerade rehearsals in the Peppermill that morning and we figured we might as well grab a bite and a chat before engaging with our programmes for the day. I had my favourite US breakfast, which is a burger patty with eggs and hash browns (oh God it's so good). My breakfast came with a pastry, and it turned out to be massive, so I kept it for lunch, since I suspected I wasn't going to be überhungry anyway.

I then headed to the Fanzine Lounge, collected my daily rations of Mountain Dew from Kat and chatted to various people who were in attendance, including Mark and Claire. Since Mark was shortly going to be interviewing me, we discussed what he might ask and generally psyched ourselves up for the panel. When we got there, it was roughly as full as I was expecting (by which I mean, 'it wasn't at all full'). Randy Byers could be seen, as could Claire and Alice Lawson (an integral part of the London Worldcon bid and an awesome person to boot). Janice Murray was also present, and there was also someone there who I didn't know. What he thought he was going to get out of the proceedings, I'll never know, but heck, he seemed to enjoy himself, so I guess I am more interesting than I give myself credit for, or something. Talking with Mark is always good fun, but talking with him for the entertainment of others was a little surreal; although it does make me slightly sad that it didn't occur to me to try and record it. Oh, and in case you were wondering, I didn't even manage to finish the pastry for lunch; Janice had to help me with that!

My Friday afternoon also saw me manning the desk alongside Mike Scott for the London in 2014 bid, but this time it was a little different, since I had the enormous pleasure of meeting David Kyle, who also presented the Big Heart Award prior to the Hugo Awards Ceremony on the Saturday evening. He was the first of three fans that I met at Renovation who had attended the first Worldcon, and due to his poor memory, he asked both me and Mike to write something in a little pocket book he was carrying around with him, which I thought was a great way to commemorate the convention!

The Friday evening was supposed to be the Faneds' Feast, which I totally didn't manage to attend since I suck. It was really annoying, since I had been invited by Murray Moore, who I find enthralling to talk to and was looking forward to catching up with; but these things happen when you're at your first Worldcon and you're still finding your way around. I did eventually have dinner with Warren Buff and a bunch of people under the guise of the Secret Journeymen of Fandom (SJOFs) dinner, which was awesome!

After dining with the SJOFs, Sydnie, Amos and I went to the Peppermill to watch the Masquerade, since Sara was one of the people taking part. I also wanted to see the last entry, which was the one that Mette, Bryan, España and a bunch of other folk were involved with, so I was excited to see what they were going to be doing! (And I must confess, as an Englishman who does listen to a lot of BBC Radio 4, Just a Minute will always possess a special place in my heart.) Sara's entry was awesome, since her costume was entirely constructed out of ring pulls. And yes, I do mean ring pulls; I don't care if they're called 'tabs' in America, they're ring pulls! However, I must confess that the last entry was amazing. It was a Doctor Who entry, and I genuinely couldn't

tell the difference between the costumes on stage and the costumes from an episode of Doctor Who. You could have told me that they were costumes taken from the television show and I would've been entirely in agreement with you.

The half-time entertainment came in the form of a game of Just a Minute. This was awesome despite some initial technical issues, and Paul Cornell did a really good job of chairing whilst Caroline Symcox kept score. John Dowd told me later in the evening that he'd given the other three players (Lauren Beukes, Seanan McGuire and Bill Willingham) some tips on how to play the game, since, as the reigning Eastercon champion, he was the only person who'd actually heard it before, let alone played it before. Seanan used some of Clement Freud's old tricks with great aplomb and romped home with the win, which was something that Clement often didn't manage to do in the olden days, may he rest in peace! I watched with Amos and Sydnie, who are both American, and to whom this was an entirely new experience. Both of them were in stitches, which made me oddly proud to be British – although neither of them was rooting for the underdog, which is how British comedy panel games are supposed to work!

Eventually it came time to head back to the Atlantis and party. We elected to leave after Just a Minute, in order to beat the post-masquerade rush – in so doing, I missed out on Chris renewing Bryan and Mette's vows, which was a great shame. Fortunately, the vows made it into the Worldcon Ustream channel, so I've since rectified this injustice. We got back to the Atlantis and I totally went to lots of parties (I already mentioned London in 2014, right?) and found lots of awesome people to talk to, but the highlight of the evening was drinking a lot of Soylent Green with España before getting back to the Peppermill and sinking gratefully into bed.



Atlantean Soy lent Green

by España Sheriff

Although this account is now over halfway through the tale of Renovation, the second half contains the Hugo Awards Ceremony and I did several panels on the Saturday beforehand, so it's disproportionately long compared to the writings about the other days. As such, this seems like an excellent point at which to break the story midway through and leave you, gentle reader, waiting for more. So, look out for the second instalment of this con report in a future issue of *SF/SF*!

#### **TAFF Race to Olympus**

TAFF is, as you may know, the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund. And I, John Coxon, was the TAFF delegate to America from Britain this year. But this isn't about me; it's about the next adventure in the world of TAFF, which is the 2012 race to Olympus, the 63rd British National Science Fiction Convention, which will be held in London over the Easter weekend next year. Obviously, this means that the TAFF machine will eventually lunge into life again, with people campaigning for other people, and auctions, and newsletters, and fanzine articles, and a whole variety of other awesome stuff.

By the time you read this, nominations for the 2012 TAFF race will have closed and an announcement will have been made as to who is running. So far, there are two candidates, but fairness prohibits me from naming them in case more people decide to run. Watch for more information in *SF/SF* and at [taff.org.uk](http://taff.org.uk)!

# Ringers: Lord of the Fans Screening with Filmmakers Carlene Cordova and John Welch and Special Guest Peter S. Beagle

**By Diane Rooney**  
*Contributing Writer*

On Thursday, August 25, the Variety Preview Theatre on San Francisco's Market Street was the gathering point for about 40 Ringers and other fantasy and sci-fi fans for a special event hosted by SF in SF (Science Fiction in San Francisco): A screening of *Ringers: Lord of the Fans* with filmmakers Carlene Cordova and John Welch and special guest Peter Beagle.

Peter Beagle loves meeting and mingling with fans and always has amazing stories to share. He recalled immersing himself in *The Lord of the Rings* when he first read it in college at the University of Pittsburgh way back in 1955. He read for three days straight, fueled by pizza provided by a caring roommate.

In the lobby we also talked about stuttering problems, and of course, *The King's Speech* came into the discussion. Peter mentioned he'd had a stutter, which he overcame by singing. He also mentioned that James Earl Jones, the voice of Darth Vader, also had a stutter, which he overcame by speaking lines onstage.



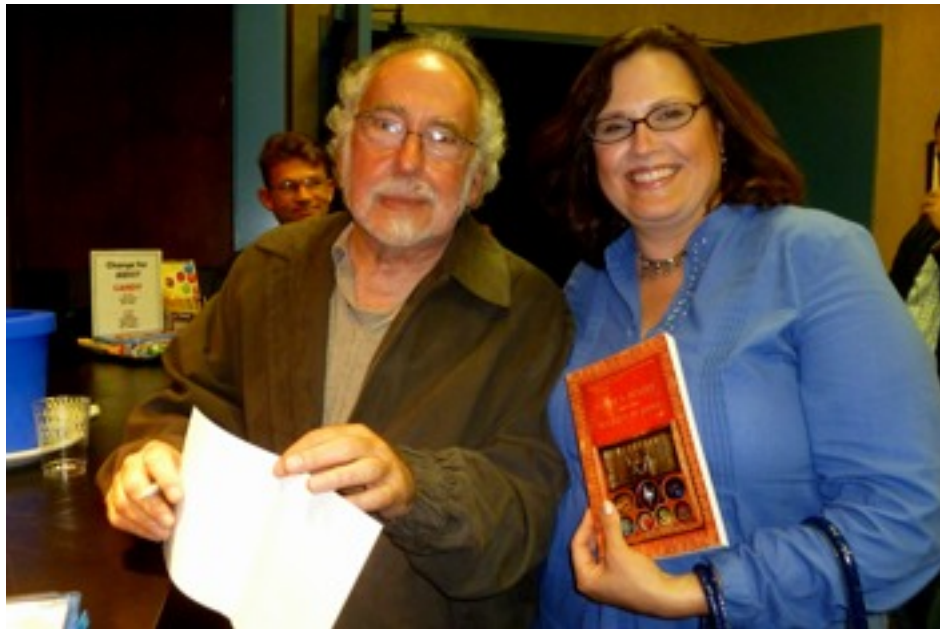
by Diane Rooney

One year at Anachrocon in Baltimore, he ended up on a panel with Neil Gaiman, whom he'd never met before, and they worked wonderfully together, playing off each other like a veteran comedy team.

Peter mentioned that he lived in Davis for 11 years in an area where the streets were named for Tolkien characters. And despite his great love for Tolkien and his works, Peter believes "Tolkien was a Luddite." He wanted "a world where there weren't any footprints on the moon."

Peter said Middle Earth to him was “like a travel poster.” “I just wanted to go there, even though it was dangerous... you have to do the best you can, the world is worth saving. What we have done to the planet, what we have done to each other. No one’s totally good.” He sees Boromir as “not a bad guy, he just loses it, then regains it at his death.” His favorite character? “Gollum.” He loves what he calls the most haunting line, describing when Smeagol was young: “before the Precious came.”

Among Peter’s pages-long accomplishments and claims to fame are the screenplay for the 1978 Ralph Bakshi animated/rotoscoped *Lord of the Rings* film, and the introductions he wrote for *The Lord of the Rings* U.S. paperbacks and for *The Tolkien Reader*. He feels Andy Serkis was inspired by Peter



by Diane Rooney

Woodthorpe’s interpretation of Gollum in the Bakshi film. He added that even after all these years, he still gets fan letters in Elvish! Bakshi was difficult to work with. Peter described him as “part genius, part Brooklyn street thug.” Three of Peter’s uncles were painters. He took Bakshi to meet one of them and described Bakshi’s reaction as “like a nine year old who’s just met Michael Jackson or Michael Jordan.”

Peter said he had “the horrors” over the animated Rankin-Bass productions (*The Hobbit* in 1977 and *The Return of the King* for television in 1980. He commented: “Why not go all the way and sell to Hanna Barbera.” (This *Return of the King* animated production is best known for the song “Where There’s A Whip, There’s A Way.”)

*Ringers: Lord of the Fans* was made between 2002 and 2005. Carlene co-wrote, co-produced and directed the film and John co-edited it. It premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. The production, post-production and marketing of the film almost undid them, according to Carlene. She, John, Josh Mandel (director of photography and co-producer) and Cliff Broadway (producer, writer and interviewer) spent four years in production and one year in post-production and publicity.

After the screening of *Ringers*, Carlene, John and Peter took questions from the audience. Carlene talked about meeting Cliff Broadway while in line to meet Ian McKellen at an event. Their friendship took off and soon she was organizing *Ringers* line parties and producing video pieces. With the enormous growth of *The Lord of the Rings* fandom long before the first film was released, she and Cliff realized: “There’s a movie here!” *TheOneRing.net* helped them get access. “It was a story we were in a unique position to tell,”

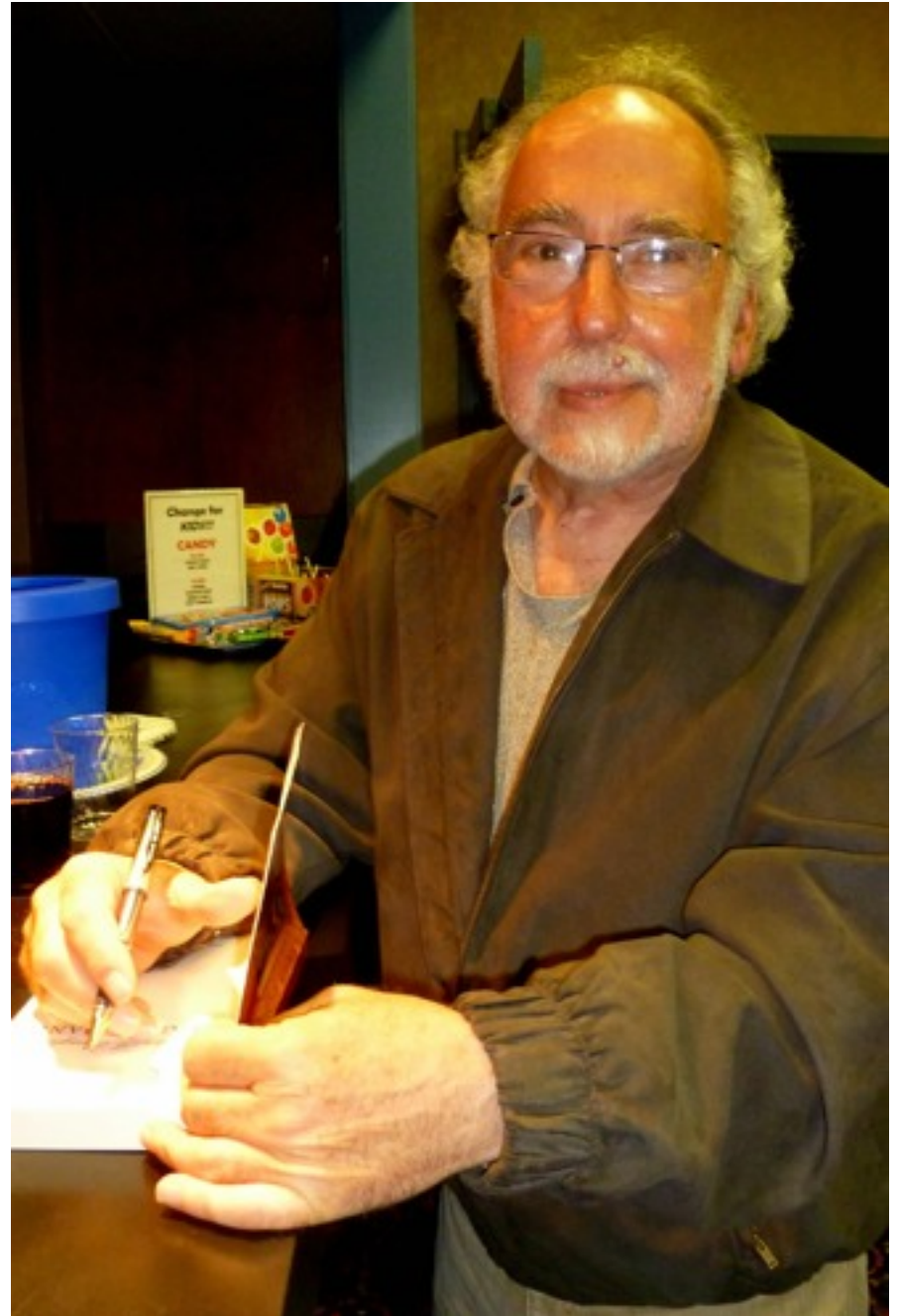
she said. “The best thing I got out of it was John” (who is now her husband).

One question fans had was how the filmmakers got access to so many people for the making of the film. TheOneRing.net made a lot of connections. Cliff Broadway’s boss at the time did online publicity for Andy Serkis, Sean Astin and Ian McKellen. Ian McKellen also helped get access, along with Elijah Wood and Dominic Monaghan. Brad Dourif’s manager also managed David Carradine, so that gave the Ringers crew the connection to getting David in the film.

Carlene and John have in a way always been Ringers. John mentioned that a love of *The Lord of the Rings* always ran in his family and among his friends. He played Rings reenactment games as a kid “Like the Civil War only for *The Lord of the Rings*.” Carlene said her brother told her one day, “it’s time to step up and read *The Lord of the Rings*.” She did and she never looked back. As for Peter, look for his upcoming works including a collection of nonfiction essays entitled *Smeagol, Deagol and Beagle: Essays from the Headwaters of My Voice*.

For more information on SF in SF, please visit their web site at [www.sfinsf.org](http://www.sfinsf.org). For more information on Peter Beagle and his works, go to [www.conlanpress.com](http://www.conlanpress.com). For more information on *Ringers: Lord of the Fans*, go to [www.imdb.com/title/tt0379473](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0379473) or [lordofthefans.com](http://lordofthefans.com).

*Editor’s note: SF in SF is a separate organization that is not affiliated with our e-zine, SF/SF.*



by Diane Rooney

# Pacificon 2011

**By Will La Cross**

*Contributing Writer*

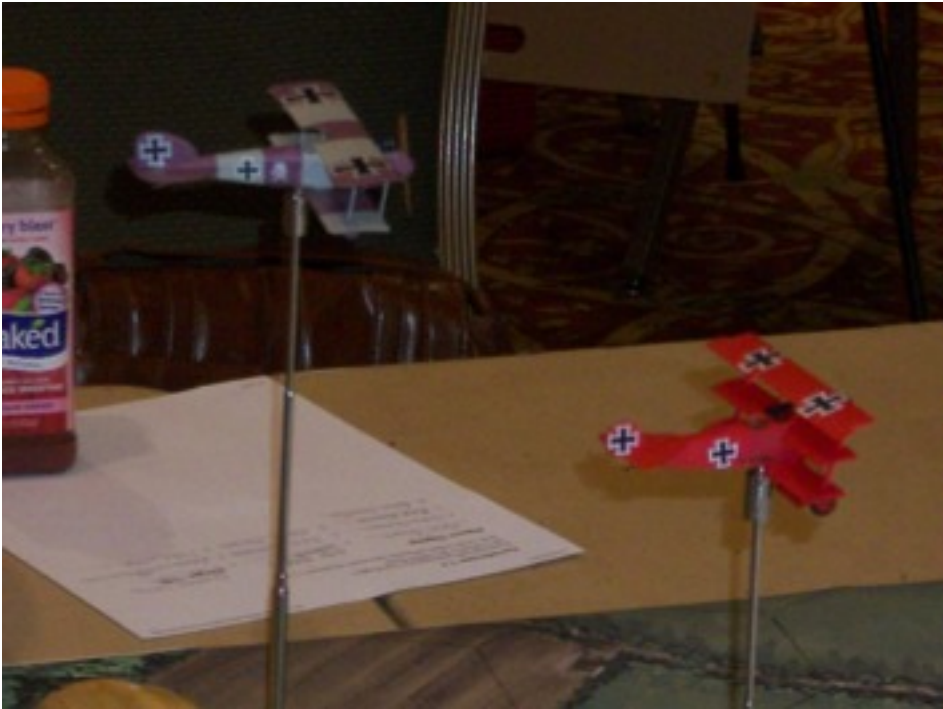
Just as Halley's comet returns, gamers once again traveled to Santa Clara on Labor Day weekend for Pacificon 2011. They enjoyed a nice selection of games, miniatures showing a vast improvement over last year's showing, a flea market on two nights, and a small auction.

While board games were played by friends and families alike, role playing games (RPGs) were being played and taught to newcomers, historic battles being refought with

different tactics and possibly different outcomes. I saw the assault on Troy to "rescue" Helen, multiple landings in the Pacific and the hunt for the Red Baron.

The attendance was a nice surprise, seeing a serious return of many families who just last year could not attend, a number of attendees who were attending for the first time, and a return of regulars like myself.





There was a lack of live action role playing (LARP) that I had never seen before. I did run into a couple who were playing board games and they told me that some LARP players were too busy with work, some had started new jobs, and others could not make it for one reason or another.

One thing I have not mentioned before is the appearance of guest speakers at these conventions. They range from game designers to speakers of the war colleges, to published authors of fact or fiction. The lectures are free, and the schedule is printed with plenty of advance warning, so you can plan your

weekend out and ask the questions that have been gnawing at you like a slow, toothless zombie.

The flea market is a great venue for gamers to help clean out the garage, and a nice way to possibly find that out-of-print piece that has been impossible to find.

All-in-all the con was great, and I once again urge you to go to one and try it out for at least one day. The next one in the Bay Area is DunDraCon on Presidents' Day weekend in February 2012 in San Ramon.

Game on people!

# Letters of Comment

## Lloyd Penney writes:

Dear Jean and España,

Looks like we're all back home, and still recovering from the Worldcon. I brought home so many fanzines, there's so much yet to do and get on with. *SF/SF* 120 is by the computer in printed format, and there are so many great memories of Reno...

## Jean Martin responds:

*It was so great to finally meet you and Yvonne. I can't believe Worldcon is over already. After looking forward to it for so long, it happened and was over in what seemed to be like the blink of an eye.*

First of all, I will say congratulations on the masquerade win! With the Garcia Hugo, and a great masquerade management team, I will say that BArea fandom rocks. You've truly made your mark this year. The Fillory parties were tremendous, Lev Grossman got his Campbell tiara... there was so much more I wanted to do over the week, and just couldn't get to it. When it comes to costuming, I did win myself a hall costume award for my Steampunk railway conductor costume, but I never did get around to the other costumes I brought.

*Thanks for the congratulations! It was also so awesome that Chris Garcia finally won a Hugo. And yes, the Bay Area did make its mark at this year's Worldcon. I'm reading Lev Grossman's The Magicians right now, which seems to me like a cross between the Narnia Chronicles and Harry Potter. What turned out to be his victory party was great. Leigh Ann,*

*España and company did a great job. I definitely felt a magical atmosphere with the décor and costumes. I agree. There was so much going on and with the convention spread out over three locations, it made it more difficult to get to things that were scheduled closely together. I had to skip some things because I didn't think I'd have enough time to go back and forth. Congratulations on your hall costume award.*

Let's see... got to hear Unwoman, even if it was from a distance, got to sit in the *Game of Thrones* Comfy Chair, contributed and got my copy of *WOOF*, bought myself a fine Victorian top hat to go with various Steampunk costumes, lost about ten pounds from all the walking between the Atlantis Hotel and the convention centre.

And now, I will say that I was lovely to meet both you ladies for the first time, hope I didn't hug too hard. I also ran into people I hadn't seen in years, perhaps decades, like Frank Skene, Jeanne Mealy and Delphyne Woods. I hope Steampunk doesn't get old fast, too. I'd hate to see it fade away, fun while it lasted.

Letters of Comment... ah, there we are! We went looking for a Slytherin tie for Yvonne's costume, but found nothing. So, we will have to order via one of those websites, possibly the wbshop.com site, and see what we can find there. Amazon.com also sells those ties, too. CostumeCon 32 comes to Toronto in 2014, so we will probably be there. Hope Chris

gets to bring his Hugo to a BASFA meeting. So many of us had our pictures taken with it in Reno.

*That's great that CostumeCon will be going to your neck of the woods. I went in 2003 when it was in San Jose and had an amazing time. It was one of the best conventions I've ever been to because it combined my love of both historical and scifi costuming. So friends from both communities (with a lot of overlap) were in the same place at the same time. Kevin and Andy did a great job organizing that convention too. I believe Chris did take his Hugo to a BASFA meeting.*

The next couple of years' Worldcons will be in Chicago and San Antonio. We don't have plans to attend either, because

of our plans to go to the 2014 Worldcon in London, should they win it. If there is something in Chicago that requires us to be there (Yvonne is hoping I might get back on the Hugo ballot), then we will probably be there for a few days.

*Good luck on getting on the Hugo ballot again. It would be great if SF/SF gets on the ballot too someday. I think we've made the long list in the past so the short list would be nice. I probably won't be going to Chicago and San Antonio. I might consider London myself if they do win it for 2014.*

All done. I'll be sending a lot of LOCs to the BArea over the next few days, I expect. Take care, and see you next issue.

### **Join our crew!**

We are looking for writers to cover local events, conventions, fan groups and the fannish scene in general.  
Contact Jean Martin at [SFinSF@gmail.com](mailto:SFinSF@gmail.com)

# BASFA Minutes: Meetings 1100-3

## Meeting 1100

August 29, 2011

Trey Haddad, President

Chris Garcia, Vice-President

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Held at Coco's, 1206 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale

Began at 8 pm - with Chris but without his Hugo

22 people attended

We established a party jar

The minutes for meeting 1099 were accepted as "to the point"

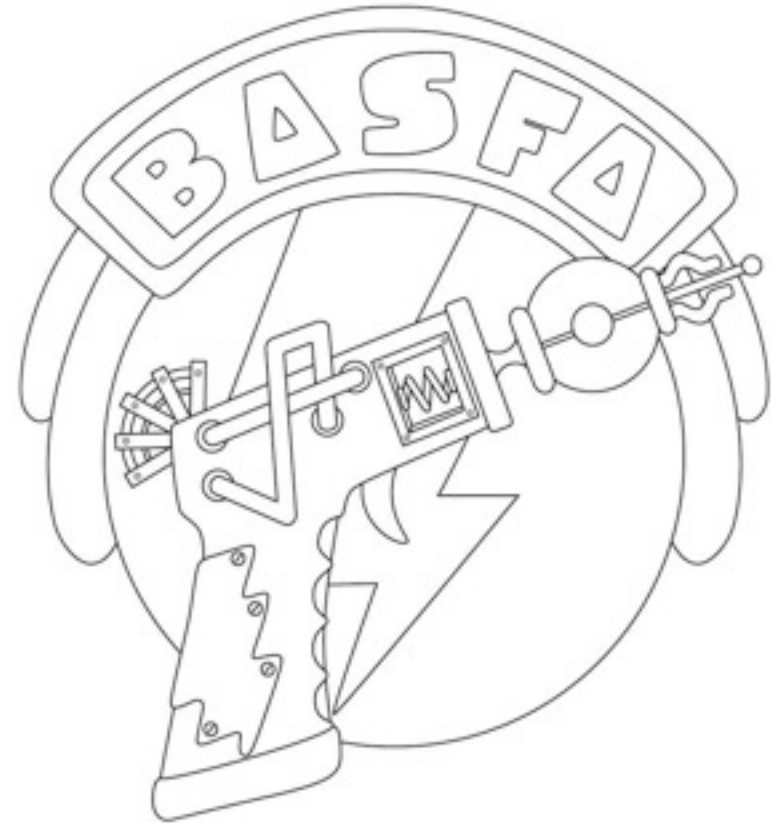
the Treasurer arrived late - but a proxy Treasurer report is that at meeting 1099 we took in \$9.55 in the regular jar & \$7.10 in the party jar

The VP reported that there was no *Drink Tank* out - he was resting on his laurels and distracted by his shiny Hugo - but he plans to write one soon & that the next 2 *Journey Planets* will have themes of Sherlock Holmes & Bladerunner

The President had nothing fannish to report

### Announcements

Adrienne announced that she had had a miserable week & that local fan Paul Metz had died



BASFA logo by Miko Simmons

Ken announced that tomorrow he will be doing a fun radio show about John Peel - a BBC radio DJ - on KFJC from 2-6pm

Dave C announced that the August *Cargo Cult* catalog was out & he is having some publisher drama

Jo announced that he will be working for Tango next week

Chris announced that Ann Vandemeer is no longer going to be editing *Weird Tales* and it makes him sad, like cancer

## Reviews

Chris reviewed *Unwoman Uncovered Volume 1* of her doing covers of other songs as fantastic & well worth getting & reviewed the last 2 episodes of *True Blood* as a tease & still pretty good & reviewed Carrie Vaughn's *After the Golden Age* as pretty good, worth paperback

Diane reviewed a tapas place, "Alegrias" in SF on Van Ness as having delightful food & Chris agreed

Jo reviewed *Crazy Stupid Love* as it surprised him, that it was geared for adults & not predictable, had reasonable choices & was worth full price & he reviewed Chris' acceptance speech for the Hugo as worthy of nomination for best short dramatic film ([videosift.com/video/Greatest-Hugo-Acceptance-Speech-of-All-Time](http://videosift.com/video/Greatest-Hugo-Acceptance-Speech-of-All-Time)) then Renovation was reviewed again ... a ton. Adrienne thought the app was great & the free wifi was good when it worked & she was very impressed when [tall] Kevin handled a part of the WSFS business meeting & hopes they let him handle all of it next year & reviewed the Dr Who stuff with River Song as very contrived; Carole commented that the Orlando in 2015 bid is not technically all under the same roof; Jo said the app didn't work if the wifi didn't work; Dave C agreed about the Dr Who as being contrived; Bill commented that filking had problems with where it was placed & the smoke was bad & the con facilities were far flung; Carole liked the programming volunteers; Mo also thought it was too spread out & she missed seeing some panels but others she did see were excellent - met great people and had a great time & "Vice President Adorable" gave the Masquerade 4 stars

Howeird said Ye Olde Town Band gave another free park concert and it was bigger than before, they got a standing ovation & a retirement home took up a collection for them; he reviewed Motorola's re-hiring of him as he's been warmly welcomed back and it's been worth full price

Carole reviewed funding & bringing out an East Coast costumer to Worldcon as well worth full price

Bill reviewed *Cowboys vs Aliens* as truth in advertising & full of mindless fun - worth either matinee or DVD & Carole approved of Daniel Craig as eye-candy

Ed mused on attending his 1st Worldcon long ago as he went mainly to see Alan E Nourse - who wrote *Bladerunner* as he had a great time then

We did auctions = buttons for \$0.50; books for \$1.00, \$0.25, \$1.00, \$0.25, \$2.00, \$1.25, \$1.00, \$1.00, \$1.00, \$3.00, \$0.75, \$1.00; books on CD for \$6.00; various Worldcon things for \$0.10, \$0.10 & \$0.10 & luggage for \$0.50

we adjourned at 9:26 pm

Rumor of the Week: "Chris' next project will be Mr Adorable's weep-along blog"

## Meeting 1101

September 5, 2011

Trey Haddad, President

Chris Garcia, Vice-President

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Held at Coco's, 1206 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale

Began at 8 pm

22 people attended

The minutes for meeting 1100 were accepted as "on the hour"

the Treasurer reported that at meeting 1100 we took in \$7.20 in the regular jar & \$17.00 in the party jar

The VP was not here

The President had nothing fannish to report

We did auctions = cookies for \$0.50; a books for \$0.25; DVDs for \$1.00, \$0.25, \$0.25, \$0.25, \$0.25, \$0.25, \$0.25; a blanket for \$0.25, a lamp for \$0.25, phones for \$1.00, videos for \$0.25, cords for \$0.25, & CDs for \$0.25, \$0.25, \$0.50, \$0.50

### Announcements

Dave G announced that Vintacon 7 will be held in Lodi October 7-9 at the Hampton inn - he has fliers & he announced that he & Spring will be seeing *Evil Dead the Musical* this Saturday, Sept 10 and tickets are still available

Adrienne announced that her dad has a new cat & on Oct 2 Santa Clara will have lots of roads closed for the day

Howeird announced that he will be moving in about a month - that the lease signing was an adventure - & also announced birthdays

Dave C announced that next year's Wondercon will be held in Anaheim & BASCon will be in November and may ... be ... the ... last ... one

Lisa announced that Westercon 66 still has online registration - check [www.westercon66.org](http://www.westercon66.org)

[evil] Kevin announced that the member directory is now online for Westercon 66

Ken announced that this coming January will be the Legion of Rasselon's 30th anniversary & there may be something special planned

Spike announced that there's a new con "Convolution" at the Hyatt in Burlingame, the 2nd weekend in November 2012, check [con-volution.com](http://con-volution.com).

Trey announced that we have a 27" TV to find a home for

### Reviews

Adrienne reviewed the Pleasanton Scottish Highland Games as there were thousands there - and caber tossing, haggis ona stick, whiskey tasting, sheep herding, masses of dealers & fun opportunities for shopping - she had fun and highly recommends going there

Mike reviewed *Men of Tomorrow* by Gerard Jones as really quite good & worth hardback

Howeird reviewed *Captain America* as he saw it in 2 parts - broken up by a fire alarm & evacuation - that closed the theatre - that he came back, saw the rest & thought Tommy Lee Jones was the only bright spot in the film - that the soundtrack was nice, the end credits were good, the costumes were brilliant & worth seeing for the closing credits; Mile

follow-on'd that he really liked the movie & felt there were some good comic touches in it

Dave C reviewed Chris Roberson's *Set the Seas on Fire* as historical fantasy & a good read, worth paperback & reviewed a restaurant - the east side Mel's as "and then I tried the food" and it was not good - worse than Denny's

Dave G reviewed the Stein collection at the SF Museum of Modern Art as go see it & well worth full price

we adjourned at 9:30 pm

Rumor of the Week: "Opening soon - 'Christine the Musical' - starring Kit"

## Meeting 1102

September 12, 2011

Trey Haddad, President

Chris Garcia, Vice-President

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Held at Coco's, 1206 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale

Began after 8 pm

32 people attended

The minutes for meeting 1101 were accepted as "accepted" the Treasurer reported that at meeting 1101 we took in \$11.85 in the regular jar

The VP was not here

The President had nothing fannish to report & we said "hi" to Chuck Serface - visiting us for the 1st time - newly returned

from the Peace Corps in Ukraine & now working for Santa Clara

### Announcements

[evil] Kevin announced that Subterranean Press has done a new edition of Hughart's *Master Li 7 Number Ten Ox* for \$45 - check [subterraneanpress.com](http://subterraneanpress.com).

Gery announced that they need Thriller dancers - see her

[tall] Kevin announced that he will be commuting a lot and repairs are continuing

Mo announced that she has new studio space

Diane announced that she is looking to move closer to SF & looking for a place to rent &/or roomates

We did lots of auctions

### Reviews

Dave G reviewed the Atomic Testing Museum in NV as full of interesting things & reviewed *Evil Dead the Musical* as splashy, extra gory & highly recommended

Fred reviewed Burning Man as worth more than full price & reviewed the Tachyon Press 16th anniversary party as very nice

[tall] Kevin reviewed one downside of the new house as "the commuters headed to Burning Man" & reviewed the Worldcon business meetings as successful & he's been doing a lot of driving

Diane reviewed the Miramar restaurant in Cypress Point off Hwy 1 as well worth full price

Rick reviewed DC's trashing their comics continuity and then the reissues as Fanboy Planet is reviewing them and he can only recommend 3 of the flood that he has seen so far [new Superman, Justice League & Batgirl] - and that with the

enormous print runs issued that they are likely to not gain much in value

Dann reviewed enjoying doing cartooning class and that one of the best Mexican restaurants they've ever been to is right near the studio = 869 S First St, SJ, "the 5 Spot" - huge meals, low prices and absolute heaven

Ed reviewed 5 books by Michael Z Williams - all set in the same space opera universe - as highly recommended - especially *Contact with Chaos* & also reviewed *Contagion* as excellent and boring and worth matinee

[evil] Kevin reviewed the Best Buck in the Bay as as small but fun - the buckles were shiny! - he & Andy did goat dressing and the goat squirmed a lot & they had a good time; Andy follow-on'd that the daytime events were lightly attended & the night time events were much more heavily attended & they had faux animal rights protests for an hour [who wore leather] & also reviewed that they had breakfast at Cafe Flore which has amazing roast potatoes - had dinner at Barracuda Sushi and had really good, reasonably-priced sushi [drooling now] & then had breakfast at Criolla Kitchen as "OMG soul food Louisiana!!" - that they do chicken & waffles and duck gizzards & waffles - it was divine and absolutely, definitely worth full price

Brad reviewed visiting the LASFS club house as it had very nice facilities

We adjourned at 9:50 pm

Rumor of the Week: "goat dressing - it's not just for dinner anymore"

## Meeting 1103

September 19, 2011

Trey Haddad, President

Chris Garcia, Vice-President

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Held at Coco's, 1206 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale

Began at 8:01 pm me hearties

27 people attended

We established a party jar

The minutes for meeting 1102 were accepted as "lost at the bottom of Reichenbach Falls"

The Treasurer reported that at meeting 1102 we took in \$37.50 in the regular jar & \$81.75 in the party jar

The VP reported that he's been having some really weird dreams lately - that there's a new *Drink Tank* out - with a Mo Starkey cover & he's still looking for content for issue #300 - send it to him at [garcia@computerhistory.org](mailto:garcia@computerhistory.org)

.....and then Howeird presented Chris with a packet of incredibly NIFTY con ribbons ["saving the world one Hugo at a time"]

The President had nothing fannish to report

The Sports Committee reported that he has tickets to the last of the Giants' night games

### Announcements

Ken announced that this Friday will be the 1st of 2 Legion of Rasselon meetings for this month - at 7:30 at "the usual

place” at 1st & Trimble - plus that [www.legionofrasselon.org](http://www.legionofrasselon.org) has had an upgrade

Brad announced that it was his high school’s 40th year reunion & he learned that the events made into a movie [*The Rite* - exorcism movie] was based on someone from his class

Adrienne announced that she has posted her Renovation review on [epinions.com](http://epinions.com) & announced that she has a new [used] car - a Beetle & announced that Annette Martin - a local psychic - died last week

[evil] Kevin announced that Saint Georges Spirits is having a Bathtub Gin BBQ this Sunday - tickets are still available - check their website

Andy announced that he forgot something - then remembered it - then current events overrode it

[tall] Kevin announced that fan Scott Dennis had survived a traffic accident with some injuries - but that it will cause his Tshirt table to be absent from a number of upcoming conventions

## Reviews

Chris reviewed 10 movies ... very, very fast - and most of them were of the “meh” variety

Rick reviewed staying at a hostel near city hall in Sacramento as very nice

Howeird reviewed *On the Origin of the Species* by Darwin as quite readable - well written - and worth buying a print copy of, just to get the page formatting

Ross reviewed *The Old Man in the Wasteland* by Nick Cole as post-apocalyptic & a good read

[tall] Kevin reviewed driving through the Carson Pass on hwy 88 as a beautiful view as a drive to take only in good weather & added 2 hours to the drive

We did a lot of auctions

We adjourned at 9:08 pm

Rumor of the Week: “Chris’s copy of ‘Twilight’ watches Chris while he’s sleeping”

# Bay Area Fannish Calendar

Life is complicated; putting on an event is even more so. Please check before attending, as events are sometimes canceled or times and locations changed.

**Follow the calendar on Twitter:  
@sfsfcalendar**

New listings are highlighted in red.

Ongoing events are toward the back.

## Through October 9

### ***Killing My Lobster Conquers the Galaxy***

TJT Theatre

470 Florida, San Francisco

[www.killingmylobster.com](http://www.killingmylobster.com)

Sketches and shenanigans include the real story of how Dr. Who chooses his time-traveling companions; a TED talk explaining the benefits of the zombie apocalypse; Italians running a space station and more.

Check website for tickets and showtimes.

## Through October 16

### ***Northern California Renaissance Faire***

Casa de Fruta

10031 Pacheco Pass Hwy, Hollister

[www.norcalrenfaire.org](http://www.norcalrenfaire.org)

Check the website for themed weekends, including Two-for-One, Pirates and Fantasy. 10 a.m.

\$25

## Saturday, October 1

### ***Anime Destiny***

MLK Student Union

Berkeley

[www.calanimedestiny.com](http://www.calanimedestiny.com)

Details TBA

## Saturday, October 1

### ***Steampunktoberfest Ball***

PEERS Event, [www.peers.org](http://www.peers.org)

Masonic Lodge of San Mateo

100 North Ellsworth Avenue, San Mateo

Suggested costume is formal 19th century, traditional Oktoberfest, or Victorian Steampunk attire. Bangers & Mash plays an evening of popular 19th century waltzes, mazurka waltzes, schottisches, polkas, and set dances (all set dances will be briefly taught and called). There will be a pre-ball workshop in Survival Polka, whirling rotary waltz, and mazurka waltz. There will be a no-host (cash) bar offering the finest in both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, and a German-style light snack buffet (your potluck contributions to the buffet will be most welcome!).

6:45 p.m.

\$15 (till September 24)

## Thursday, October 6

### ***Neal Stephenson***

Book Passage

51 Tamal Vista Blvd, Corte Madera

[www.bookpassage.com](http://www.bookpassage.com)

The bestselling author of *Snow Crash* and *Cryptonomicon* returns with a thick & chunky new thriller, *Reamde: A Novel*, involving an online fantasy war game.

7 p.m.

Free

**Friday, October 7**

***Midnites for Maniacs with Joe Dante in Person***

The Castro Theatre  
429 Castro, San Francisco  
www.midnitesformaniacs.com/

Triple feature of *The Goonies*, *The Hole* 3D and *Gremlins 2*.

7pm \$15

**Friday-Sunday, October 7-9**

***Big Bad Con***

Hilton Oakland Airport  
One Hegenberger Road Oakland  
www.bigbadcon.com  
RPG and LARP convention.

\$40

**Friday, October 14**

***SF in SF Litquake; Urban Fantasy Panel & Discussion***

Hobart Building  
582 Market Street, San Francisco  
www.sfinsf.org

Reading, followed by Q&A from the audience moderated by author Terry Bisson.

7 p.m. Free

**Saturday, October 15**

***An Evening With the Munsters***

The Historic Bal Theatre  
14808 East 14th Street, San Leandro  
www.baltheatre.com

Join Bay Area Film Events, your host Mr. Lobo and special guest Butch Patrick (Eddie Munster) for a special screening of the full-length motion picture, *Munster Go Home!*

Then join Eddie Munster himself and Mr. Lobo for three of your favorite *Munsters* episodes.  
7 p.m. \$12

**Thursday-Sunday, October 20-23**

***Sacramento Horror Film Festival***

Historical Colonial Theatre  
3522 Stockton Blvd., Sacramento  
www.sachorrorfilmfest.com

The SHFF screens more films over fewer days than any other horror film festival. The festival screens all things horror including features, shorts, documentaries, music videos, trailers, and animations.

Check website for tickets and showtimes

**Friday-Sunday, October 21-23**

***Yaoi-Con***

San Francisco Airport Marriott  
1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame  
www.yaoicon.com

A celebration of male passion and beauty in anime and manga. The theme for this year is Cowboys. 18+

\$55 (till September 21)

**Monday, October 24**

***Forbidden Thrills Movie Night***

Forbidden Island Tiki Lounge  
1304 Lincoln, Alameda  
www.thrillville.net

Cult Movies & Cocktails, hosted by Will the Thrill. All shows free, first feature starts @ 7:30 PM, second feature @ 9:15. Free Popcorn and Trivia Prizes. Halloween Un-spook show! Roger Corman's *The Undead* (1957) plus John Carradine and Tor Johnson in *The Unearthly* (1957)  
7:30 p.m. Free

**Friday, November 4**

***An Evening with Neil Gaiman and Amanda Palmer***

Palace of Fine Arts  
3301 Lyon Street, San Francisco  
www.amandapalmer.net

Starting halloween night, Amanda Palmer & Neil Gaiman will be tearing up through the west coast of North America on a mini-tour.

7 p.m. Check website for pricing

**Saturday, November 5**

***Le Bal des Vampires***

PEERS Event, [www.peers.org](http://www.peers.org)

Alameda Elks Lodge

2255 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda

Suggested costume is evening dress of the century and country of your “rebirth.” This may include dress uniform, period costume (authentic or fantasy), vintage attire, or modern evening dress. There is no dress code for the ball. Our band in the elegant upstairs ballroom is the chamber ensemble Bangers & Mash. As usual, haunting waltzes dominate the program, but the evening will feature a variety of dance music from across the centuries. For modern music and free-style dancing, join us downstairs in the Nightfall Club from 6:30 p.m. to Midnight. Hosted by Dark Moon, the club also features a no-host (cash) bar, and light refreshments for our mortal guests.

6:45 p.m. \$25 (till October 30)

**Friday, November 12**

***They Might Be Giants, Jonathan Coulton***

The Fillmore

1805 Geary Boulevard, San Francisco

[www.jonathacoulton.com](http://www.jonathacoulton.com)

Jonathan Coulton opens for They Might Be Giants

8 p.m. Check website tickets

**Saturday, November 13**

***They Might Be Giants, Jonathan Coulton***

The Fillmore

1805 Geary Boulevard, San Francisco

[www.jonathancoulton.com](http://www.jonathancoulton.com)

Jonathan Coulton opens for They Might Be Giants

9 p.m. Check website for tickets

**Saturday, November 12**

***SFinSF: Kim Stanley Robinson & Cecelia Holland***

Hobart Building

582 Market Street, San Francisco

[www.sfinsf.org](http://www.sfinsf.org)

Reading, followed by Q&A from the audience moderated by author Terry Bisson.

7 p.m. Free

**Saturday-Sunday, November 12-13**

***They Might Be Giants (Jonathan Coulton opening)***

The Fillmore

1805 Fillmore Street, San Francisco

[www.theymightbegiants.com](http://www.theymightbegiants.com)

The original Nerd band with opening act by JoCo, of “Still Alive”, “Re: Your Brains” and fame.

9 p.m. Free

**Monday, November 21**

***Forbidden Thrills Movie Night***

Forbidden Island Tiki Lounge

1304 Lincoln, Alameda

[www.thrillville.net](http://www.thrillville.net)

Cult Movies & Cocktails, hosted by Will the Thrill. All shows free, first feature starts @ 7:30 PM, second feature @ 9:15. Free Popcorn and Trivia Prizes. Sci-Fi Seafood Jamboree! *Attack of the Crab Monsters* (1957) & *The Flesh Eaters* (1964)

7:30 p.m. Free

**Monday, December 19**

***Forbidden Thrills Movie Night***

Forbidden Island Tiki Lounge

1304 Lincoln, Alameda

[www.thrillville.net](http://www.thrillville.net)

Cult Movies & Cocktails, hosted by Will the Thrill. All shows free, first feature starts @ 7:30 PM, second feature @ 9:15. Free Popcorn and Trivia Prizes. Feliz Navidad Fiesta! *The Braniac* (1962) & *Curse of the Aztec Mummy* (1959)

7:30 p.m. Free

**Thursday-Saturday,  
January 12-15 and 19-22, 2012**

***Machine: A Fire Opera***

The Crucible

1260 7th Street, Oakland

www.thecrucible.org/events/fire-operas-ballets/  
366

Conceived and staged by Mark Streshinsky specifically for The Crucible's performance space and capabilities, this original fire opera is based on a sci-fi short story by Derek J. Goodman, with original score by Clark Supryniewicz.  
Details TBA

**Thursday-Monday, January 12-16, 2012**

***Further Confusion***

San Jose Marriot

301 South Market Street, San Jose

www.furtherconfusion.org

Anthropomorphic convention. GOH: E.E.

Knight

\$45 (till December 30)

**Friday-Monday, February 17-20, 2012**

***Pantheacon***

Doubletree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place, San Jose

www.pantheacon.com

Pagan convention.

\$55 til September 15th

**Friday-Sunday, February 24-26, 2012**

***Potlatch 21***

Best Western Executive Inn

Seattle

potlatch-sf.org

Literary SF convention. Alternates between SF Bay Area and Seattle.

\$60

**Friday-Sunday, March 2-4, 2012**

***Consonance***

Hilton Newark/Fremont

39900 Balentine Drive, Newark

www.consonance.org

Filk convention. GOH: Brenda Sinclair Sutton, Teresa Powell, Mary Crowell and Gwen Knighton. Interfilk Guest; Partners in K'Rhyme, W. Randy Hoffman and Kira Heston  
Toastmistress: Seanan McGuire, International Guest: Brook Lunderville

\$45 (till December 31)

**Friday-Sunday, August 3-6, 2012**

***Mythcon 43***

Clark Kerr Conference Center

2601 Warring St, Berkeley

www.mythsoc.org

The annual conference of the Mythopoeic Society. GOH: Grace Lin, G. Ronald Murphy  
Details TBA

**Ongoing**

**Daily**

***Cartoon Art Museum***

655 Mission Street, San Francisco

www.cartoonart.org

Current exhibitions *Green Lantern* through Nov 6.

11-5 p.m.

\$6 (Closed Mondays)

***San Francisco Ghost Hunt Walking Tour***

Begins: Queen Anne Hotel

1590 Sutter at Octavia, San Francisco

www.sfgghosthunt.com

Closed Tuesdays.

7-10 p.m.

\$20

***VIZ Cinema***

1746 Post Street, San Francisco

www.newpeopleworld.com/films

VIZ Cinema is a 143-seat underground cinema inside New People in San Francisco. Its programming focuses on the latest and hottest films from Japan, as well as classics, favorites, documentaries and anime.

Please check theater for showtimes and tickets.

### Sundays

#### ***Bad Movie Night***

The Dark Room Theater  
2263 Mission Street, San Francisco  
www.darkroomsf.com

Featuring bad movies old and new. October is  
Zombies!

8 p.m. \$5

#### ***Sakramento Anime Society***

Rancho Cordova Library  
9845 Folsom Boulevard, Rancho Cordova  
www.saclibrary.org

Meets every Sunday to watch old and new  
anime and anime music videos, play collectible  
card games, practice artwork and make AMVs.  
3-6 p.m.

#### ***SF Games***

Zephyr Cafe  
3643 Balboa Street, San Francisco  
vax.hanford.org/dk/games

SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of  
people who get together and play board games  
and card games every week.

2 p.m. Free

### Mondays

#### ***Bay Area Science Fiction Association***

Coco's  
1206 Oakmead Parkway, Sunnyvale  
www.basfa.org

8 p.m. Free

### Mondays and Wednesdays

#### ***Silicon Valley Boardgamers***

Mountain View Community Center  
201 S. Rengstorff Avenue, Mountain View  
www.davekohr.users.sonic.net/svb

Group meets regularly to play mostly German-  
style strategy boardgames such as Settlers of  
Catan; also multi-player Avalon Hill-style,  
historical war games, and others.

6:30 p.m. \$2

### Tuesdays

#### ***MGI Boffers & Outdoor Games***

Codornices Park  
1201 Euclid Ave, Berkeley  
mgisciaf.angelfire.com

Bad weather: we meet the same time at 33  
Revolutions Record Shop & Cafe, El Cerrito  
for boardgames.

3 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free

#### ***Principality of Mists Fighter Practice***

Twin Creeks Sports Complex  
969 Caribbean Drive, Sunnyvale  
www.westkingdom.org/node/343

SCA event. Non-members must remember to  
fill out a waiver form. In case of rain, call from  
3pm on to determine if the facility will be  
closed that day. 408-534-1169. .

7 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Free

### Wednesdays

#### ***Bay Area Role-Playing Society***

Go-Getter's Pizza  
1489 Beach Park Boulevard, Foster City  
www.BayRPS.com

Hosts a weekly game night. For club and game  
night details email GM@BayRPS.com  
6 p.m. - 10 p.m. Free

#### ***East Bay Strategy Games Club***

EndGame  
921 Washington, Oakland  
www.michaeldashow.com/eastbaystrategy/  
home.html

7:30 p.m. - 11 p.m. Free

#### ***Fanboy Planet Podcast***

Illusive Comics and Games  
2725 El Camino Real, Suite 105, Santa Clara  
www.fanboyplanet.com

Live from Illusive Comics and Games, it's the  
*Fanboy Planet* Podcast with your host, Derek  
McCaw.

6 p.m. Free

### Thursdays

#### ***CAS: NightLife***

The California Academy of Sciences  
55 Music Concourse Drive, Golden Gate Park,  
San Francisco

[www.calacademy.org](http://www.calacademy.org)

Every Thursday night, the Academy opens its doors for NightLife, a chance for adults to explore the museum in a whole new light. Dance to some of San Francisco's most popular DJs, enjoy food and cocktails, and mingle while you delve into the Academy's world-class exhibits and get up close and personal with aquarium critters.

6 p.m. - 10 p.m. \$12 (21+)

### Fridays

#### ***SF Games***

Muddy's Coffeehouse  
1304 Valencia Street, San Francisco  
[vax.hanford.org/dk/games](http://vax.hanford.org/dk/games)

SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of people who get together and play board games and card games every week.

7 p.m. to midnight Free

### Fridays-Mondays

#### ***Haunted Haight Walking Tour***

Meets at Coffee To The People  
1206 Masonic Avenue, San Francisco  
[www.hauntedhaight.com](http://www.hauntedhaight.com)

Reservations required.

7 p.m. - 9 p.m. \$20

### Fridays and Saturdays

#### ***Vampire Walking Tour***

Meets corner of California and Taylor, San Francisco

[www.sfvampiretour.com](http://www.sfvampiretour.com)

Led by Mina Harker. Tour is canceled if there is heavy rain.

8 p.m. \$20

### Biweekly

#### ***PenSFA Party***

The Peninsula Science Fantasy Association meets every two weeks for a party at the home of one of their members. They also host parties at local conventions. Email

[commander@pensfa.org](mailto:commander@pensfa.org) for information on attending. PenSFA standard party rules: bring something edible or drinkable to share, or pay the host \$2. Don't smoke in the house without checking with the host first. Normal start time is 8 p.m. but may vary depending on the host.

### ***Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers' Group***

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street, San Francisco

Meets the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 6 pm. Contact Jude Livingston at [sfscifi@yahoo.com](mailto:sfscifi@yahoo.com) for more information.

### Monthly

#### ***Dorkbot-SF***

[www.dorkbot.org/dorkbotsf/](http://www.dorkbot.org/dorkbotsf/)

Dorkbot hosts regular forums for artists, designers, engineers, students, and other people doing strange things with electricity.

Free, donations welcome

#### ***Foothill Anime***

Building 5015, Foothill College

Los Altos Hills

[foothill.anime.net](http://foothill.anime.net)

Monthly event where people can get together to watch anime and meet like minded others.

Usually meets the first Sunday of every month at noon.

12 p.m. Free

#### ***Geeks Vs. Geeks***

San Francisco / San Mateo

[www.facebook.com/geeksvsgeeks](http://www.facebook.com/geeksvsgeeks)

[www.geeksvsgeeks.com](http://www.geeksvsgeeks.com)

Monthly pub trivia quiz. Usually takes place the first Sunday (San Mateo) and second Monday (San Francisco) of the month, please check Facebook or website for details.

7:30 p.m. Free

**Silicon Gulch Browncoats**

Various locations (see website for details)  
www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org  
Silicon Valley fans of Firefly/Serenity meet up on the first Saturday of the month.  
Noon - 2 p.m. Free

**Rocky Horror Picture Show**

The Clay, 2261 Fillmore Street San Francisco/  
The Guild, 949 El Camino Real Menlo Park  
www.bawdycaste.org  
The Bawdy Caste presents the classic midnight movie the first Saturday of the month, alternating between the Clay in San Francisco and the Guild in Menlo Park.  
Midnight

**Spec Fiction Book Club**

Keplers Books  
1010 El Camino Real Menlo Park, CA 94025  
www.keplers.com  
Meets the second Sunday of every month.  
4 p.m. Free

**QSF&F Book Club**

Borderlands Books  
866 Valencia, San Francisco  
www.qsfandf.com  
Meets the second Sunday of the month.  
5 p.m. Free

**East Bay Star Wars Club**

Central Perk  
10086 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito  
510-558-7375  
www.ebstarwars.com  
Meets the second Friday of every month.  
7:30 p.m. Free

**Fantastic Frontiers**

www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/  
Social club for Sacramento County sci fi/fantasy fans usually meets the second Saturday of the month. Check website for meeting times and locations.

**No-Name Anime**

Saratoga Library  
13650 Saratoga Avenue  
Saratoga  
www.nnanime.com  
Anime screenings usually take place on the second Saturday of the month.  
Free

**SF Browncoats**

Cafe Murano  
1777 Steiner Street, San Francisco  
www.sfbrowncoats.com  
SF Firefly/Serenity fans usually meet up on the second Saturday of the month.  
Noon Free

**Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club**

Borderlands Books  
866 Valencia, San Francisco  
www.borderlands-books.com  
Meets the third Sunday of the month. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.  
6 p.m. Free

**USS Defiance**

5026 Don Julio Blvd, Sacramento  
1566 Howe Ave, Sacramento  
www.myspace.com/d2121978  
Star Trek fan group meets the third Friday of the month.  
7 p.m. Free

**Micro Gods, Inc.**

Berkeley Public Library, West Branch  
1125 University Ave, Berkeley  
mgisciaf.angelfire.com  
groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyClub/  
Family Club for fans of Science Fiction, Fantasy, Movie, Anime & Manga. Meets every 3rd Saturday, please check Yahoo group for updates.  
2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free

**USS Northern Lights**

Contact firstjedi2000@yahoo.com for specifics.  
sites.google.com/site/ussnorthernlights  
'Lights is a chapter of Starfleet International and a swell group of science fiction fans. We do more than Trek. Usually meets the third Saturday of the month, with social event TBD.  
7 p.m. Free

**Religion & SF Book Club**

First United Methodist Church  
1183 "B" Street, Hayward  
Meets the 4th Sunday of the month. Please contact Rev. Randy Smith at RSmith2678@aol.com for more information.  
7 p.m. Free

**Other Realms Book Club**

Books, Inc.  
1375 Burlingame Ave, Burlingame  
www.booksinc.net/localinterest/291027  
Meets the 4th Wednesday of the Month.  
6:30 p.m. Free

**Sci-Fi Book Group with Kym**

Barnes & Noble  
El Cerrito Plaza, 6050 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito  
http://store-locator.barnesandnoble.com/event/3110722-4  
Meets the fourth Friday of the month.  
7 p.m. Free

**Legion of Rassilon**

Carl's Jr.  
2551 N 1st St , San Jose  
www.legionofrassilon.org  
Doctor Who fan group usually meets the fourth Friday of the month: Episodes of Doctor Who, news, discussion of recent movies, and a raffle.  
7:30 p.m. Free

**USS Augusta Ada**

Round Table Pizza  
3567 Geary Blvd, San Francisco  
trek.starshine.org  
Augusta Ada is both a chapter of Starfleet International and a Linux and \*BSD user group. Usually meets the fourth Saturday of every month.  
1 p.m. Free

**Veritech Fighter Command ONE-THREE**

Round Table Pizza  
4403 Elkhorn Blvd, Sacramento  
916-338-2300  
Anime/cosplay group usually meets the last Saturday of the month at 1800 hours.  
6 p.m. Free



# Bay Area Fannish Calendar – October 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Bad Movie Night</i> <i>Sakramento Anime</i> <i>SF Games</i>	<i>BASFA</i> <i>SV Boardgamers</i> <i>Haunted Haight</i>	<i>MGI Boffers</i> <i>Fighter Practice</i>	<i>BA Role-Playing Soc</i> <i>E.Bay Strategy Games</i> <i>Fanboy Planet Podcast</i> <i>SV Boardgamers</i>	<i>CAS: NightLife</i>	<i>SF Games</i> <i>Haunted Haight</i> <i>Vampire Walking</i>	<i>Vampire Walking</i>
25 <i>Handcar Regatta</i> <i>Religion &amp; SF</i>	26	27	28 <i>Other Realms</i>	29 <i>Killing My Lobster</i> <i>(thru Sun Oct 9)</i>	30	1 <i>Anime Destiny</i> <i>Steampunktoberfest</i> <i>Rocky Horror</i> <i>Silicon Gulch Browncoats</i>
2 <i>Foothill Anime</i> <i>Geeks Vs. Geeks (SM)</i>	3	4	5	6 <i>Neal Stephenson</i>	7 <i>Midnites for Maniacs</i> <i>Big Bad Con (thru Sun)</i>	8 <i>Fantastic Frontiers</i> <i>No-Name Anime</i> <i>SF Browncoats</i>
9 <i>Spec Fic Book Club</i> <i>QSF&amp;F Book Club</i>	10 <i>Geeks Vs. Geeks (SF)</i>	11	12	13 <i>SF&amp;F Writers' Group</i>	14 <i>SF in SF Litquake;</i> <i>Urban Fantasy</i> <i>East Bay Star Wars</i>	15 <i>An Evening With the Munsters</i> <i>Micro Gods, Inc</i> <i>USS Northern Lights</i>
16 <i>SF/F Book Club</i>	17	18	19	20 <i>Sacramento Horror</i> <i>Film Festival (thru Sun)</i>	21 <i>Yaoi-Con (thru Sun)</i> <i>USS Defiance</i>	22 <i>USS Augusta Ada</i>
23 <i>Religion &amp; SF</i>	24 <i>Forbidden Thrills</i> <i>Movie Night</i>	25	26 <i>Other Realms</i>	27 <i>SF&amp;F Writers' Group</i>	28 <i>Legion of Rassilon</i> <i>Sci-Fi Book Group</i>	29 <i>Veritech Fighter Cmd 13</i>
30	31	1	2	3	4 <i>Neil Gaiman and</i> <i>Amanda Palmer</i>	5 <i>Le Bal des Vampires</i>